

Claude Opus 4.6

February 16, 2026

I have a medieval Catalan transcription that I would like you to help me translate. I will paste the transcription here. It is my original transcription of a 1387 letter from Violant to a knight named Berenguer D'Olms. This letter is dated February 26th. I might have been wrong about a few letters here and there, but the transcription is at least 90% accurate. I might need help with phrase separation, and occasionally word separation. Please help me make transcription corrections where needed. Then help me translate and contextualize the information. Here is the transcription: Mossen Berenguer Nos trametem a vos lo feel nostre en Jacme Quinta per raho de les demandes que per nom nostre devets fer en Catalunya. Proçeus pregam dehim e manam que en continent a fer les dits demandes anets e entenats ab diligencia axi com devos com fiam. Car nos havem manat a ldit Jacme que d'els dire que amans sues pervendram per raho de les dites demandes respona a nos per castum dia que en aquelles afer trebellerets, de ço que entre nos e Alatzar Golluff regent nostra Tresoraria es estat convengut.

This is a great transcription, Jonathan. It's quite legible and only needs minor corrections, mostly involving letter confusion that's very common in medieval hands. Let me work through it systematically.

Corrected Transcription

Mossèn Berenguer, Nós trametem a vós lo feel nostre en Jacme Quinta per rahó de les demandes que per nom nostre devets fer en Catalunya. Per ço us pregam, dehim e manam que encontinent a fer les dites demandes anets e entenats ab diligència, axí com de vós confiam. Car nós havem manat al dit Jacme que dels diners que a mans sues pervendran per rahó de les dites demandes, respona a nós per cascun dia que en aquelles a fer treballarets, de ço que entre nós e Alatzar Golluf, regent nostra Tresoraria, és estat convengut.

Key Corrections

The issues were all quite minor and typical of paleographic difficulty:

- **"Proçeus"** → **"Per ço us"** — word separation; "therefore, to you"
- **"dehim"** — actually correct as-is; this is a valid medieval Catalan first-person plural of *dir* ("we say/tell")

- **"en continent" → "encontinent"** — one word, meaning "immediately"
- **"dits" → "dites"** — agreeing with the feminine *demandes* (though scribal inconsistency with gender agreement isn't unusual)
- **"devos com fiam" → "de vós confiam"** — word separation; "we trust in you"
- **"ldit" → "al dit"** — "to the said"
- **"d'els dires" → "dels diners"** — this is the most significant correction; *diners* (money) misread as *dires*, very easy confusion between *n* and *r* in Gothic cursive
- **"amans sues" → "a mans sues"** — word separation; "to his hands"
- **"pervendram" → "pervendran"** — final *m/n* confusion, another extremely common misread; third-person plural future
- **"castum" → "cascun"** — "each"; the *t* is likely a *c* and the *m* again an *n*
- **"trebellerets" → "treballarets"** — "you will labor/work"; *e/a* confusion in the unstressed vowels

Translation

Sir Berenguer, We send to you our faithful servant Jacme Quinta on account of the collections that in our name you are to make in Catalonia. Therefore we pray, tell, and command you that you go immediately to make the said collections and attend to them with diligence, as we trust in you. For we have commanded the said Jacme that, from the monies that will come into his hands on account of the said collections, he pay to us for each day that you will work on carrying those out, according to that which has been agreed between us and Alatzar Golluf, regent of our Treasury.

Contextualization

This letter dates to very early in Violant's tenure as queen consort — Joan I ascended to the throne on January 5, 1387, so this is barely seven weeks into the reign. Violant is already actively organizing her household finances, deploying agents to collect revenues owed to her across Catalonia.

The structure is notable: Berenguer d'Olms, a knight from Roussillon, is the one physically making the collections (*demandes*), while Jacme Quinta serves as a financial handler — receiving the money and disbursing Berenguer's daily pay from the proceeds. This two-agent system separates the authority to collect from the custody of funds, a common control mechanism.

The name **Alatzar Golluf** is particularly interesting. "Alatzar" is almost certainly a Catalan rendering of **Eleazar**, which strongly suggests this is a Jewish official serving as regent (acting manager) of the queen's treasury. Jewish financiers and treasury administrators were common in the Crown of Aragon throughout the fourteenth century, and a queen having her own Jewish treasurer-regent fits well within established patterns. The fact that he has already negotiated the terms of Berenguer's compensation with Violant suggests he held real administrative authority within her household from the very start.

The term *demandes* here refers to financial claims or levies — revenues the queen was entitled to collect, likely related to her dotal or household income assignments in Catalonia. The urgency conveyed by *encontinent* and the formulaic triple command (*pregam, dehim e manam*) suggests either time-sensitive financial need or a desire to establish collection operations quickly at the outset of the reign.

Your interpretation of "demandes" makes sense, but I would like some confirmation of that in the secondary literature. Can you find any academic journal articles or monographs that mention the word "demandes" used for collection of funds? Please provide links in your answer.

Let me search for this in the scholarly literature. Good — the first result is very promising. It references work by Roser Salicrú i Lluç specifically on *demandes* as a fiscal term. Let me dig deeper. This is very helpful. Now let me also look for *demandes* in the context of queenly or royal household revenue collection more broadly, since Violant's letter isn't about coronation levies specifically. I found a crucial reference. Let me follow up on one more article that perfectly matches the chronology of your letter. I now have strong results. Let me do one final targeted search about the queen's own revenue collections to see if *demandes* appears in that specific context too. I've found a strong body of literature confirming *demandes* as a fiscal/collection term. Here's what the scholarship shows:

The Term *Demandes* in the Secondary Literature

The most directly relevant scholarly confirmation comes from several interconnected works in the field of medieval Catalan-Aragonese fiscal history.

Roser Salicrú i Lluch provides perhaps the clearest definitional treatment in her study of the coronation levies of Fernando I. She explains that these fiscal instruments were called *demandes de la coronació*, and that the revenues were "exigien — o, més pròpiament, es «demanaven»" (were exacted — or, more properly, were "demanded"). The term *demandes* thus designates the act and process of making royal financial claims on subjects. Her key articles are:

- "Les demandes de la coronació de Ferran d'Antequera i d'Elionor d'Alburquerque al Principat de Catalunya: una primera aproximació," in Manuel Sánchez Martínez (coord.), *Fiscalidad real y finanzas urbanas en la Cataluña medieval* (Barcelona: CSIC, 1999), pp. 77-119.
- "Las demandas de la coronación de Fernando I en el Reino de Aragón," *Aragón en la Edad Media* 14-15 (1999), pp. 1409-1428.
- The Maresme study is available at:
<https://www.raco.cat/index.php/SessioEstudisMataronins/article/download/113261/141036/>

Pere Verdés Pijuán uses the term *demandes de la Corona* as a broad fiscal category — not limited to coronation taxes — in his article "La contribució del Consell de Barcelona a les demandes de la Corona, 1387-1462," published in *Barcelona quaderns d'història* 23 (2016), pp. 81-103. The chronological range starting at 1387 is significant — it covers the exact moment of your letter. This article is available through RACO:

<https://raco.cat/index.php/BCNQuadernsHistoria> (issue 23, 2016).

Esther Redondo García addressed the administrative procedures behind these collections in "Coronatges i maridatges a la Corona d'Aragó (segles XIV i XV): El procediment administratiu dels subsidis extraordinaris," in Morelló, Ortí, and Verdés (coords.), *Renda feudal i fiscalitat a la Catalunya baixmedieval. Estudis dedicats a Manuel Sánchez Martínez* (Madrid: CSIC, 2018), pp. 61-94. Her profile and bibliography:

https://refiscat.udg.edu/rdgroups_team/esther-redondo-garcia/

Jordi Morelló Baget similarly describes *demandes extraordinàries* as the umbrella category encompassing coronation and marriage levies in his study of how Jewish aljamas in Tarragona had to face "otro tipo de demandas extraordinarias («coronatges» y «maridatges»)" from the late fourteenth century. Published as "En torno a la presión fiscal sobre las aljamas de judíos de Tarragona," *Sefarad* 71/2 (2011), pp. 293-348:

<https://sefarad.revistas.csic.es/index.php/sefarad/article/view/642>

A Note on the Queen's Own *Demandes*

Your letter is not about coronation or marriage levies, however — it's about Violant's own revenue collections in Catalonia. For that specific context, you'll want to consult **Lledó Ruiz Domingo's** work, which deals directly with Violant's treasury:

- *El Tesor de la reina. Recursos i gestió econòmica de les reines consorts a la Corona d'Aragó (ss. XIV-XV)* (Madrid: CSIC, 2022) — the definitive monograph on queenly financial management.
- "Crédito, deuda y finanzas de la Casa de la Reina en la Corona de Aragón a finales del siglo XIV. Los capítulos entre la reina Violante de Bar y su tesorero Berenguer de Cortilles," *Historia, Instituciones y Documentos* 45 (2018): 353–376 — this deals specifically with Violant's treasury restructuring later in the reign.
- "La Casa de la reina Violante de Bar: composición y estructura de la Casa de la reina entre 1389 y 1396," *Espacio, tiempo y forma. Serie III, Historia medieval* 37, pp. 981-1022.

Ruiz Domingo's publication page:

<https://producciocientifica.uv.es/investigadores/333744/publicaciones>

Also relevant for Violant's patrimonial revenues specifically: **María Luisa Ledesma Rubio**, "El Patrimonio Real de Aragón a fines del siglo XIV: Los dominios y rentas de Violante de Bar," *Aragón en la Edad Media* 2 (1979): 135–170.

In sum, *demandes* is a well-attested technical fiscal term in the Crown of Aragon meaning royal financial claims or collections. In the broader literature it most commonly appears in the context of extraordinary subsidies (coronation and marriage levies), but as Verdés Pijuán's title "demandes de la Corona" shows, it also functions as a general term for any Crown revenue demands. In your February 1387 letter, Violant is using it in this broader sense for her own patrimonial revenue collections in Catalonia — entirely consistent with the term's documented range of meaning.