

English Translation: Joan I's Confirmation of a Grant to Dominicus Lull (1 March 1387)

Document Summary

This document is a royal confirmation (*laudatio et confirmatio*) issued by Joan I of Aragon on 1 March 1387, shortly after his accession to the throne. It confirms and ratifies a grant originally made by his father, Peter IV the Ceremonious, on 5 April 1384 at Tamarit de Llitera. The grant awarded an annual pension of 1,000 *sous* of Barcelona to Dominicus Lull, a citizen of Valencia, drawn from the revenues of the *batllia general* (bailiff generalship) of the Kingdom of Valencia, in compensation for Lull's voluntary resignation from the office of lieutenant of the bailiff general.

The document follows a standard Aragonese chancery structure: Joan I's *narratio* frames and introduces the embedded text of Peter IV's original grant (*tenor*), after which Joan's own *dispositio* confirms the whole.

Translation

Joan I's Preamble and Narratio

We, Joan, by the grace of God King of Aragon, Valencia, Mallorca, Sardinia, and Corsica, Count of Barcelona, Roussillon, and Cerdanya.¹

Considering that the Lord Peter, of celebrated memory, our father,² made to you, Dominicus Lull, a certain grant of concession or assignment, as we have seen set forth in his charter sealed with his pendant seal, in the following manner:³

Peter IV's Original Grant (Embedded Tenor)

We, Peter, by the grace of God King of Aragon, Valencia, Mallorca, Sardinia, and Corsica, Count of Barcelona, Roussillon, and Cerdanya.

Since you, our faithful member of our household,⁴ Dominicus Lull, citizen of Valencia, who by our concession held the office of lieutenant of the bailiff general in the Kingdom of Valencia,⁵ have voluntarily resigned that office, with our approval,⁶ anew — under the expectation, however, that we would make to you the concession and assignment written below —

Therefore,⁷ moved by the aforesaid considerations,⁷ and because, now weighed down by old age,⁸ you are no longer able to follow [the court? the office?] conveniently,⁹

By the tenor of the present [document], out of regard for and in remuneration of all the aforesaid [services], and so that you may better be able to bear and sustain so many necessities,¹⁰ [we grant] one thousand *sous* of Barcelona,¹¹ to be received by you or by whomever you wish in your stead, in each and every year for as long

as you shall live, from and upon all the revenues, emoluments, and rights of the aforesaid bailiff generalship — upon which [revenues] we impose and assign the same to you, to be granted to you for as long as you shall live.¹²

[We command] our faithful Petro Marrades, who holds the office of the said bailiff generalship, and others who for the time being shall be assigned to that office,¹³ with certain and express [command], that from the monies coming into his hands from the said revenues, emoluments, and rights, he shall pay to you — or to whomever you wish in your stead — the aforesaid one thousand *sous* in each and every year for as long as you shall live, as has been said. Taking for each payment a receipt of acknowledgment,¹⁴ in which the tenor of this [document] shall be entirely inserted, and in other documents mention of this [grant] shall be had.¹⁵

For we expressly command our *Racional*,¹⁶ *Mestre* [Master], or any other person who shall audit the accounts of the said bailiff, that once [the receipts] have been returned and the aforesaid sums which shall appear through them to have been paid to you for the aforesaid reason [have been verified], he shall accept [them] in the said account, all difficulty ceasing.¹⁷

In testimony of which we have ordered the present [document] to be made, fortified with our pendant seal.

Given at the town of Tamarit de Llitera,¹⁸ on the fifth day of April. In the year of the Nativity of the Lord one thousand three hundred and eighty-four. And of our reign the forty-ninth.

Joan I's Confirmation (Dispositio)

And on behalf of the said Dominicus Lull, it was humbly requested of us that we might deign to praise and confirm the aforesaid concession or assignment to you, of our accustomed clemency, in every way.¹⁹

Therefore, inclined favorably to the said requests, by the tenor of the present [document] we praise, approve, and confirm the aforesaid grant, concession, and assignment, and the contents therein, and we strengthen [them] with the protection of our confirmation.

Commanding by the same [document] our faithful councillor Raymundus de Solerio,²⁰ who holds the office of the said bailiff generalship, and any other person who for the time being shall hold that office, as well as the *Mestre Racional* of our Court, or any other person who shall audit the accounts of the said bailiff general, that they shall hold firmly and observe the present grant, concession, and assignment, and shall not contravene [it] nor permit anyone to contravene [it] for any reason.

In testimony of which we have ordered the present [document] to be made for you, fortified with our pendant seal.

Given at Barcelona, on the first day of March. In the year of the Nativity of the Lord one thousand three hundred and eighty-seven. And of our reign the first.²¹

Franciscus ça Cost [?]²²

Key Ambiguities and Uncertain Passages

1. **The object of *sequi*** (fn. 9): Whether Lull can no longer "follow the court" or "carry out his duties" affects the historical interpretation of his role.
 2. **Financial formula** (fn. 10): The exact syntax of the clause explaining the purpose of the grant is garbled in both transcriptions and may reflect scribal compression of standard formulae.
 3. **Duration clause** (fn. 12): *vobis ipsi dum vixeritis concedendos* vs. *ipsi Dominico ducis concedendos* — neither reading is fully satisfactory; the former is more grammatically plausible.
 4. **Accounting clause** (fn. 17): Several words in the passage commanding the *Mestre Racional* remain uncertain; the general legal meaning is clear but specific terms are difficult.
 5. **The word *spatiis*** (fn. 15): An unusual term in this context that neither transcription resolves satisfactorily.
 6. **Notarial subscription** (fn. 22): The final name is difficult to read and absent from the other source.
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1. In the manuscript, Joan's intitulation is abbreviated as "Nos Johanes et cetera." The full form is supplied from the standard royal style. ↩
 2. *Dominum Petrum recolende memorie genitorem nostrum*: the standard commemorative formula for a deceased royal predecessor; Peter IV died on 5 January 1387. ↩
 3. *prout in carta sua sigillo pendenti sigillata huiusmodi fieri vidimus*: This is a *vidimus* formula, indicating that Joan I (or his chancery) had the original sealed document before them. The translation "as we have seen set forth" captures the legal force of *vidimus*, though one might also render it more literally as "as we have seen [it] to have been done in his charter sealed with his pendant seal." The exact syntax of *huiusmodi fieri vidimus* is slightly awkward — it could also mean "we have seen [a charter] of this kind to have been made." ↩
 4. *fidelis de domo nostra*: "faithful [member] of our household." This designates Lull as a member of the royal *domus* or household, a term of both honor and administrative significance. ↩
 5. *officium locumtenentis Baiuli in Regno Valencie generalis*: "the office of lieutenant of the bailiff general in the Kingdom of Valencia." The *batlle general* was a key financial officer of the Crown in each kingdom; the *lloctinent* served as his deputy. The other transcription reads "ita Regni Valencie" which does not parse; "in Regno" is the standard formula. ↩
 6. *de et cum nostra complacencia*: literally "from and with our good pleasure/approval." This formula emphasizes that the resignation was consensual rather than forced. ↩
 7. *Propterea ex permissis inducti*: "Therefore, moved/induced by the things permitted/aforementioned." *Permissis* here functions as equivalent to *praemissis* ("the aforesaid things"), which is a common late medieval interchange. The other source reads "permissis" consistently where the standard formulary would typically have *praemissis*; both are attested in Aragonese chancery Latin. ↩

8. *iam senio praegravati*: "now weighed down by old age." This is a clear and elegant reading; my original attempt ("in genio infirmitati") was incorrect. The grammatical form is slightly uncertain: *praegravati* (nominative plural) would agree with a plural subject, but the document addresses Lull in the second person singular. It may be *praegravatis* (ablative, agreeing with *senio*?) or simply a minor grammatical looseness common in chancery Latin. The other source reads *praegravatis*, which could be parsed as a second-person plural form ("you are weighed down") treating *vos* as a formal plural. ↩
9. *eciam nunc sequi commode non valetis*: "you are no longer able to follow conveniently." The object of *sequi* is unstated. In context, it likely means "to follow the court" (i.e., to attend upon the king in his itinerant court) or possibly "to carry out [the duties of office]." This is a standard justificatory formula in grants to aging royal servants. ↩
10. *et tot necessitatum curare sustinere unde melius valeatis*: This passage is syntactically difficult. The core meaning is clear — the grant is meant to help Lull sustain himself — but the exact parsing of *curare sustinere* is ambiguous. It could be a hendiadys ("to bear and sustain") or *curare* could be an infinitive of purpose ("to take care to sustain"). The other source reads *sustineat*, which would change the subject (third person: "so that [the grant] may sustain [your] necessities"), but *sustinere* seems more likely paleographically. ↩
11. *mille solidos Barchinone*: 1,000 *sous* of Barcelona — the key financial datum. The *sou* (Latin *solidus*) of Barcelona was the standard money of account in the Crown of Aragon. This is a substantial annual pension. ↩
12. *vobis ipsi dum vixeritis concedendos*: This passage is one of the most uncertain in the document. The other transcription reads *ipsi Dominico ducis concedendos*, which is problematic Latin (*ducis* does not parse well here). My reading, "to be granted to you for as long as you shall live," fits the formulaic context better but remains tentative. ↩
13. *et aliis qui pro tempore ipsi fuerint officio imminentes*: "and others who for the time being shall be assigned to / incumbent in that office." The participle *imminentes* (literally "leaning upon, pressing upon") here means something like "charged with" or "incumbent in." ↩
14. *apodixam de recepto*: a receipt or acknowledgment of payment. *Apodixam* (from Greek *apodeixis*) is the standard term in Aragonese chancery documents for a formal receipt. ↩
15. *et in aliis spatiis de huiusmodi mencio habeatur*: literally "and in other spaces/documents, mention of this [grant] shall be had." The word *spatiis* is unusual; the other source reads it this way as well. It may refer to other accounting documents or blank spaces on receipts. An alternative reading might be *scripturis* or similar, but both transcriptions agree on *spatiis*. ↩
16. *nostro Racionali Magistro*: The *Mestre Racional* (Latin *Magister Rationalis*) was the chief auditor of the royal finances in the Crown of Aragon, responsible for reviewing the accounts of all royal officials including the bailiff general. The other source reads "fieri rationali magistro" which appears to be a misreading. ↩

17. This accounting clause is heavily formulaic but contains several uncertain readings (marked [?] in the transcription), particularly around *reportato restitatur iamdictas quantitates*. The general sense is clear: the *Mestre Racional* is commanded to accept the payments to Lull as legitimate charges against the bailiff general's accounts, without raising difficulties. The phrase *omni difficultate cessante* ("all difficulty ceasing") is a standard chancery formula meaning the auditor should not challenge or delay the accounting. ↩
18. Tamarit de Llitera (modern Tamarite de Litera) is a town in the province of Huesca, Aragon. Peter IV's itinerary shows him in this area in spring 1384. ↩
19. *laudare et confirmare*: "to praise/approve and confirm." In Aragonese chancery usage, *laudare* has the specific legal sense of "to ratify" or "to approve," beyond its common meaning of "to praise." ↩
20. Raymundus de Solerio: i.e., Ramon de Soler. Note that the holder of the bailiff generalship has changed between Peter IV's grant (1384), when it was held by Petro Marrades, and Joan I's confirmation (1387), when it is held by Ramon de Soler. This succession is itself a useful datum for the administrative history of the *batllia general*. ↩
21. Joan I's reign is counted from the death of Peter IV on 5 January 1387. This document, dated 1 March 1387, falls within his first regnal year. ↩
22. This appears to be a chancery notarial subscription — the name of the scribe or official responsible for the document. The other transcription omits it. The reading is uncertain: *Ffranciscus ça Cost* or possibly *ça Cort*. The double-f initial is characteristic of medieval Catalan/Aragonese scribal practice for the name Francesc. ↩