

Claude Opus 4.6

February 27, 2026

I have a Latin letter written in late-fourteenth century Gothic secretarial hand. I would like you to do your best to transcribe it. It spans two pages, so I have uploaded two images.

9:25 AM

Meticulously deciphered fourteenth-century Latin manuscript across two pages

Meticulously deciphered fourteenth-century Latin manuscript across two pages

Here is my best transcription of both folios. This is clearly a confirmation by Joan I of a concession originally made by his father Peter IV (the Ceremonious) to Ingo Lull, a citizen of Valencia. I've marked uncertain readings with [?] and expanded common abbreviations where possible.

Folio recto (Image 1):

Nos Johanes et cetera. Attendentes quod Petru recolende memorie genitorem nostrum vobis Ingo Lull quendam genus concessionem seu assignacionem fecisse ad aius carta suo sigillo pendenti sigillata huius siei / Nos Petrus dei gracia Rex Aragonum, Valencie, Maioricarum, Sardinie et Corsice, Comesque Barchinone, Rossilionis et Ceritanie / Quia vos fideles de domo nostra Ingo Lull civis Valencie qui ex concessione nostra habetis officium locumtenentis baiuli in Regno Valencie generalis ipsi officio de et cum nostri complacencia renunuiastis [?] sponte de novo sub spe tamen quod vobis concessionem et assignacionem faceremus subceptas / contra ex primis inducti et quia in genio [?] infirmitati eciam nunc sequi comode non valetis / bono de presentis respectu ac remuneracione omnium premissorum et tot necessitatu [?] corap [?] sustinere oria [?] melius valeatis ville sol Barchinone hendos [?] per vos seu quas coluentis [?] loco bri [?] annis singulis quamdiu vixeritis de et super redditibus emolumentis ac iuribus omnibus publice baiulie generalis super quibus imponiq [?] et assignamus eosdem vobis Christi vixio [?] duas concedendos / fideli nostro Petro Marrades dicte baiulie officium obtinenti et aliis qui pro tempore ipsi perint [?] officio impungentes [?] de certa sua et expresse quod de peccunia ad manus suas ex dictis redditibus emolumentis et iuribus puentura [?] solvat vobis tot cui voluptis [?] loco bri predictos ville sol singulis annis quamdiu vixeritis ut est

dictum / decapando seu [?] quolibet solucione apocam de recepto in quaquidem prima tenor huius totaliter sit insertus et de aliis specialis de huiusmodi mano [?] habeat / Nos enim suo Racionali Magistro seu aliis cuicumque a dicto baiulo computum audituris mandamus expresse quod eo apocos [?] restitute iandictos [?] quicquid apparuerit per easdem vobis racione predicta soluisse pro lutum [?] et dicto recipiat compoto omnis difficultate cessante / In cuius rei testimonium hanc iussimus fieri sigillo nostro pendentimunitam / Datum in villa Tamarit de Litaya [Tamarit de Llitera] iuxta die Aprilis / Anno a nativitate domini Millesimo CCC^o LXXX^o quarto / Regniq[ue]

Folio verso (Image 2):

mi quadragesimo nono 2 [?] G[uillelmus] 8 [?] Vallseca — / Et per parte vestra et dicti Domp[er]a [?] Lull fuisse nobis humiliter supplicatum per ipsistam [?] concessionem seu assignacionem vobis et iura eidem clemencia laudare et confirmare oracionis [?] dignemur op[er]circo suis supplicacionibus inclinati benigne / tenore presentis ipsistam [?] gratiam concessionem et assignacionem et contenta in eadem laudamus et confirmamus ac nostre confirmacionis presidio roboramus / mandantes per eandem fideli consiliario nostro Raymundo de Solenio [?] dicte baiulie officium obtinenti et aliis auditoribus qui pro tempore ipsi perint [?] officio necnon Magistro Racionali Curie nostre vel aliis cuicumque a dicto baiulo generali computum audituris quatenus presentem gratiam concessionem et assignacionem teneant firmiter et observent et contra non veniant seu alique [alicui] contravenire permittant aliqua racione / In cuius rei testimonium presentem vobis fieri iussimus nostro sigillo pendentimunitam / Datum Barchinone prima die Marcii / Anno a nativitate domini Millesimo CCC^o LXXX^o septimo / Regniq[ue] nostri primo / ffranciscus [?] q[ue] costt [?]

Summary of the document: Joan I of Aragon (dating from his first regnal year, so shortly after his accession in January 1387) confirms a concession originally granted by his father Peter IV (dated April 1384 at Tamarit de Llitera) to Ingo Lull, a citizen of Valencia. Lull had held the office of lieutenant of the *batlle general* (bailiff general) of the Kingdom of Valencia, and upon voluntarily renouncing that office, was granted an annual assignment from the revenues of the *batllia general*. The document names Petro Marrades as the current holder of the bailiff's office in the original grant, and Raymundo de Solenio in Joan's confirmation. The final confirmation is dated March 1, 1387, Barcelona.

Several passages remain quite difficult — particularly the financial specifics (the amount in *sous* of Barcelona) and some formulaic clauses. Would you like me to take another look at any particular sections?

I have a transcription from another source. There are definitely some mistakes in this transcription, but I would like you to compare it to yours, and then look back at the original images before making a decision on how to amend, or reconcile, two different paleographical interpretations. Then please present a new version of the transcription of this document. I am now going to paste the transcription from the other source: Nos Johannes dei gratia Rex Aragonum, Valencie, Maiorice, Sardinie et Corsice, Comes_que Barchinone, Rossilionis et Ceritanie. Attendentes Dominum Petrum recolende memorie genitorem nostrum vobis Dilecto militi nostro Dominico Lull quandam gratiam concessionis seu assignationis fecisse prout in carta sua sigillo pendenti sigillata huiusmodi fieri vidimus. Nosque Petrus dei gratia Rex Aragonum, Valentie, Maiorice, Sardinie et Corsice, Comes_que Barchinone, Rossilionis et Ceritanie. Cum vos fidelis de domo nostra Dominicus Lull cuius Valencie qui ex concessione nostra habebatis officium locutenentis Bajuli ita Regni Valencie generalis ipsi officio de et cum nostra complacencia renuntiaveritis sponte de novo sub spe tamen quod vobis concessionem et assignationem faciemus subscriptas. Propterea ex permissis inducti et quia iam senio praegravatis etiam minus sequi commode non valetis. Tenore presentis respectu ac in remuneratione omnium permissorum et tot necessitatum curare sustineat unde melius valeatis mille solidos Barchinone habendos per vos seu quos volueritis loco vestri annis singulis quoad vixeritis de et super redditibus emolumentis ac iuribus omnibus prefate Bajulie generalis super quibus imponimus et assignamus eosdem vobis ipsi Dominico ducis concedendos. Fideli nostro Petro Marrades dicte Bajulie officium obtinenti et alii qui pro tempore ipsi fuerint officio imminentes de certa sua et expresse quod de pecuniis ad manus suas ex dictis redditibus emolumentis et iuribus perventuris solvat vobis tot cum volueritis loco vestri predictos mille solidos singulis annis quoad vixeritis ut est dictum. Recipiendo de qualibet solutione apodixam de recepto in qua prima tenor huius totaliter sit insertus et in aliis spatiis de huiusmodi mentio habeatur. Nos enim fieri rationali magistro seu alii cuicumque a dicto Bajulo computum audituro mandamus expresse quod eo reportato restituatur iamdictas quantas apparuerit per easdem vobis ratione predicta fuisse solutum et dicto recipiat computo omni difficultate cessante. In cuius rei testimonium hanc iussimus fieri sigillo nostro pendenti munitam. Datum in villa Tamaryti de Litaya quinta die Aprilis Anno a nativitate Domini Millesimo CCCmo LXXXmo quarto. Regnique nostri Quadragesimo nono. Et ex parte dicti Dominici Lull fuisse nobis humiliter supplicatum quod permissam concessionem seu assignationem vobis de nostra solita clemencia laudare et confirmare omnino dignaremur. Idcirco dictis supplicationibus inclinati benigne, Tenore presentis

permissam gratiam concessionem et assignationem et contenta in eadem laudamus et confirmamus ac nostre confirmationis praesidio roboramus. Mandantes per eandem fideli Consiliario nostro Raymundo de Solerio dicte Bajulie officium obtinenti et alii cuicumque qui pro tempore ipsi fuerit officio nec non magistro Rationali Curie nostre et alii cuicumque a dicto Bajulo generali computum audituro quatenus pefatam gratiam concessionem et assignationem teneant firmiter et observent et contra non veniant seu aliquem contravenire permittant aliqua ratione. In cuius rei testimonium presentem vobis fieri iussimus nostro sigillo pendentem munitam. Datum Barchinone prima die Marcii Anno a nativitate Domini Millesimo CCCmo LXXXmo septimo. Regnique nostri Primo.

Show more

9:30 AM

Systematically reconciled paleographic readings against manuscript images

Systematically reconciled paleographic readings against manuscript images

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Looking back carefully at the images and comparing both transcriptions, the other source is clearly the stronger reading in most places — it resolves many of the passages I struggled with and produces far more coherent Latin and standard Aragonese chancery formulae. However, there are a few places where it appears to contain errors or where my own reading of the manuscript seems preferable.

Let me note the key points of reconciliation before presenting the final version:

Where the other source corrects my reading (selected major cases):

- **Dominico Lull**, not "Ingo Lull" — the abbreviation *Dñico* is clear once you know what to look for
- **Dominum Petrum**, not "quod Petru" — standard abbreviation *dñm ptru*
- **prout in carta sua sigillo pendenti sigillata huiusmodi fieri vidimus** — a standard vidimus formula; I badly misread this
- **iam senio praegravatis** (weighed down by old age) — far superior to my "in genio infirmitati"
- **mille solidos Barchinone** — the key financial figure I couldn't resolve; 1,000 *sous* of Barcelona
- **Propterea ex permissis inducti** — standard formula, not "contra ex primis"
- **Recipiendo de qualibet solutione apodixam** — not "decapando"
- **quinta die Aprilis** — a proper calendar date, not "iuxta die"
- **Raymundo de Solerio** — a known figure (*Soler*)

Where I believe my reading is preferable or the other source has errors:

- **civis Valencie**, not "cuius Valencie" — "citizen of Valencia" is formulaically correct and the manuscript supports *civis*
- **in Regno Valencie**, not "ita Regni Valencie" — *in Regno* is the standard formula

- The opening is abbreviated on the manuscript as **Nos Johanes et cetera** (written 2 cf); the other source silently expands this to the full intitlatio of Joan I, which is editorially reasonable but worth noting
- The other source's **ipsi Dominico ducis concedendos** remains problematic; I believe the manuscript may read something closer to **vobis ipsi dum vixeritis concedendos** ("to be granted to you as long as you live"), though this passage is genuinely difficult
- **Nos enim nostro Racionali Magistro** — the other source's "Nos enim fieri rationali magistro" appears to be a misreading; the manuscript seems to have *nro* (nostro), not *fieri*

A few places where both readings are uncertain and I've made a best judgment are flagged with [?].

Here is the reconciled transcription:

[Peter IV's original grant, embedded within Joan I's confirmation]

Nos Johannes et cetera [*abbreviated in MS; = dei gratia Rex Aragonum, Valencie, Maioricarum, Sardinie et Corsice, Comesque Barchinone, Rossilionis et Ceritanie*].

Attendentes Dominum Petrum recolende memorie genitorem nostrum vobis Dominico Lull quendam gratiam concessionis seu assignacionis fecisse prout in carta sua sigillo pendenti sigillata huiusmodi fieri vidimus:

Nos Petrus dei gratia Rex Aragonum, Valencie, Maioricarum, Sardinie et Corsice, Comesque Barchinone, Rossilionis et Ceritanie. Cum vos fidelis de domo nostra Dominicus Lull civis Valencie qui ex concessione nostra habebatis officium locumtenentis Baiuli in Regno Valencie generalis ipsi officio de et cum nostra complacencia renuntiaveritis sponte de novo sub spe tamen quod vobis concessionem et assignacionem faceremus subscriptas.

Propterea ex permissis inducti et quia iam senio praegravati [?] eciam nunc sequi commode non valetis, tenore presentis respectu ac in remuneracione omnium premissorum et tot necessitatum curare sustinere [?] unde melius valeatis mille solidos Barchinone habendos per vos seu quos volueritis loco vestri annis singulis quamdiu vixeritis de et super redditibus emolumentis ac iuribus omnibus prefate Baiulie generalis super quibus imponimus et assignamus eosdem vobis ipsi dum vixeritis [?] concedendos.

Fideli nostro Petro Marrades dicte Baiulie officium obtinenti et aliis qui pro tempore ipsi fuerint officio imminentes de certa sua et expresse quod de pecuniis ad manus suas ex dictis redditibus emolumentis et iuribus perventuris solvat vobis tot cum volueritis loco vestri predictos mille solidos singulis annis quamdiu vixeritis ut est dictum. Recipiendo de qualibet solucione apodixam de recepto in qua prima tenor huius totaliter sit insertus et in aliis spatiis de huiusmodi mencio habeatur.

Nos enim nostro Racionali Magistro seu aliis cuicumque a dicto Baiulo computum auditoris mandamus expresse quod eo reportato restituatur [?] iamdictas quantitates [?] quas apparuerit per easdem vobis ratione predicta fuisse solutum pro lutum [?] et dicto recipiat computo omni difficultate cessante. In cuius rei testimonium hanc iussimus fieri sigillo nostro pendenti munitam.

Datum in villa Tamarit de Litaya quinta die Aprilis. Anno a nativitate Domini Millesimo CCC^o LXXX^o quarto. Regnique nostri quadragesimo nono.

[Joan I's confirmation]

Et ex parte dicti Dominici Lull fuisse nobis humiliter supplicatum quod premissam concessionem seu assignacionem vobis de nostra solita clemencia laudare et confirmare omnino dignaremur.

Idcirco dictis supplicacionibus inclinati benigne, tenore presentis premissam gratiam concessionem et assignacionem et contenta in eadem laudamus et confirmamus ac nostre confirmacionis presidio roboramus. Mandantes per eandem fideli consiliario nostro Raymundo de Solerio dicte Baiulie officium obtinenti et aliis cuicumque qui pro tempore ipsi fuerint officio necnon Magistro Racionali Curie nostre vel aliis cuicumque a dicto Baiulo generali computum auditoris quatenus presentem gratiam concessionem et assignacionem teneant firmiter et observent et contra non veniant seu aliquem contravenire permittant aliqua racione.

In cuius rei testimonium presentem vobis fieri iussimus nostro sigillo pendenti munitam.

Datum Barchinone prima die Marcii. Anno a nativitate Domini Millesimo CCC^o LXXX^o septimo. Regnique nostri primo. Ffranciscus [?] ça Cost [?].

The remaining [?] marks cluster around the financial/accounting formula in the *computum* clause and the passage about the duration of the grant — both notoriously formulaic but also notoriously compressed in secretarial hand. The final name (*Ffranciscus ça Cost?*) appears to be a chancery notarial subscription that the other source omitted. Do

you want me to take another close look at any of the uncertain passages, or would a translation be useful at this stage?

Thank you. You did a great job reconciling your transcription with the other one. I would now like you to do the best you can with translating this document from Latin into English. Please be very clear about when there are ambiguities in translation or when transcription difficulties allow for more than one possible translation.

9:35 AM

Prepared systematic Latin-to-English translation with ambiguity notation

Prepared systematic Latin-to-English translation with ambiguity notation

Let me create this as a document you can reference alongside the transcription.

Acknowledged file accessibility and readied translation task

Acknowledged file accessibility and readied translation task

Here's the translation with extensive footnotes addressing ambiguities. A few things worth highlighting:

The document is structurally quite clear — it's a standard *laudatio et confirmatio* with an embedded *tenor* of the original grant. The Latin is mostly formulaic chancery language, which is both a blessing (predictable structures) and a curse (heavily abbreviated and compressed).

The most historically interesting points that emerge from the translation include the succession in the office of *batlle general* from Petro Marrades (1384) to Ramon de Soler (1387), the specification of 1,000 *sous* of Barcelona as the pension amount, and the justification of *senio praegravati* — Lull was too old to continue in service.

The *vidimus* formula in Joan's preamble also tells us the original sealed charter of Peter IV was physically present when the confirmation was drafted.

The passages I'm least confident about are the financial/accounting clause commanding the *Mestre Racional* (where both transcriptions have difficult readings), the duration formula (*dum vixeritis* vs. *Dominico ducis*), and the unusual word *spatiis*. If you have access to comparable documents from the same registers — other confirmations of pensions from the *batllia general* — the formulaic parallels would likely resolve most of these remaining uncertainties.

Translation joan i confirmation lull

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I am very happy with what you accomplished in this chat. I like how you were able to effectively revise and consider your original effort when given an alternative transcription. The work you did on translation and the output format with footnotes was exactly what I was hoping to get. Can you advise me on how I can repeat this process with you in the future? Should I copy/paste my prompts or do you have another suggestion for me?

9:43 AM

Analyzed iterative workflow elements and considered practical replication strategies

Analyzed iterative workflow elements and considered practical replication strategies

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Thank you, Jonathan — this was a genuinely enjoyable collaboration. A few thoughts on replicating and refining the workflow:

The iterative structure was key. The reason this worked well is that you didn't ask me to do everything at once. The three-step sequence — initial transcription, reconciliation against a second source, then translation with annotations — let each stage build on the previous one. I'd recommend keeping that structure. A single prompt asking me to "transcribe, compare with this other version, and translate" would likely produce worse results because I wouldn't have the chance to commit to initial readings before being challenged by alternatives.

You don't need to copy/paste your prompts verbatim each time, but it would be worth keeping a short template of the workflow steps as a note for yourself. Something like: (1) upload images, request transcription, specify the script and language; (2) paste alternative transcription, ask for reconciliation with re-examination of the images; (3) request translation with footnoted ambiguities. The specific phrasing matters less than the sequence.

One thing that helped a lot was your instruction to "look back at the original images before making a decision." That kept me grounded in the manuscript rather than just arbitrating between two text strings. I'd keep that explicit instruction every time.

For building on this going forward, you might consider putting a set of standing instructions into your user preferences or into a Claude Project. You could specify things

like your preferred output format (footnoted translation in markdown), your expertise level (so I don't over-explain standard chancery formulae), the usual script and language context (late fourteenth-century Gothic secretarial hand, Latin and Catalan), and conventions you want me to follow (e.g., how to mark uncertain readings). That way you wouldn't need to re-establish context each session — I'd start with the right assumptions.

A Project would be especially useful if you're working through a batch of documents from the same registers. You could include a project description with your transcription conventions, a glossary of recurring formulae you've already resolved, and notes on the hands you're encountering. That accumulating context would make each successive transcription stronger.

Would you like help drafting a set of reusable instructions or a project description based on what worked here?

Yes, please help me draft a project description based on what worked here.

9:45 AM

Acknowledged successful file presentation

Acknowledged successful file presentation

Here's the project description. A few notes on how to use it:

To set it up, create a new Project in Claude and paste this into the project description field (or upload it as a project knowledge file). You can then start conversations within that project, and every session will inherit these instructions.

What I tried to capture is not just the task description but the implicit norms that made our session work well — things like preserving scribal orthography rather than normalizing, always returning to the images during reconciliation, calibrating the footnotes to your expertise level, and being specific rather than generic about uncertainty. These are the things that would otherwise need to be re-established each time.

You should feel free to edit it as your workflow evolves. Some things you might want to add over time include a running glossary of resolved formulaic phrases (so I don't re-derive the same conclusions each session), notes on specific scribal hands you've identified in the registers, or references to published editions you trust for comparative purposes. You could also upload sample transcriptions or translations you've already completed as project knowledge files — that would give me a concrete model of your preferred style.

One practical suggestion: if you're working through a series of documents from the same register, it would be worth adding a brief note in the project about which register(s) you're currently working in (e.g., ACA, Cancelleria, reg. 1958) so I have that context from the start.

Claude project description paleography

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[Claude is AI and can make mistakes. Please double-check responses.](#)