

Claude Project, Opus 4.6

March 1, 2026

[Fourteenth Century ACA Transcriptions and Translations/](#)

I am uploading an image of a 1387 document in Gothic secretarial hand. This time the language is Catalan. After your initial attempt at transcription, we'll move to Stage 2.

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Meticulously deciphered medieval Catalan manuscript with paleographic uncertainties noted

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Stage 1: Initial Transcription

Document type: Royal letter/administrative mandate from Queen Violant de Bar to the Viscount of Roda, ordering his immediate return with ambassadors.

Principal actors: Queen Violant de Bar ("La Reyna"), the King of France (identified as her uncle — *molt car oncle*), the Viscount of Roda (addressee), ambassadors (*ambaxadors*).

Date: 14 March 1387, Barcelona.

Scribe: Bartholomeu Sirvent (per chancery notation).

Transcription

La Reyna

Vescomte Reebuda havem vostra let responsiva E plau nos molt lembaxada que de nostre molt car oncle lo Rey de ffrança vos ha vist [?] E volem que no espats [?] altres affers en auinyo ne en altre part mes aquells lexats de tot vinos [?] en vinguats a nos direct cami ab los ambaxadors sens taredare [?] / no contrastants quals seuol letres o manaments contraris que hauats hauts de aturar per fer certes coses en auinyo o per los quals en altra manera vostra venguda se segues e pogues retardare Dada en barcha sots nostre segell priuat acostumat a xiiij dies de marc del any M ccc lxxx vij Scertes [?]

vicecomiti de Roda

Domina Regina mandavit mihi Bartholomeus Siruent

Notes on Uncertain Readings

"vos ha vist [?]" — The clause ending after "ffrança" is the most problematic passage. I read "vos ha" followed by what looks like "vist," but "the embassy that you have seen from the King of France" is semantically awkward. Alternative possibilities: "vos ha fet" (has made/done to you), "vos ha tramès" (has sent to you), or "vos n'ha vist" with a different word boundary. The contextual sense demands something like "the embassy that our uncle the King of France has [sent/done] to you" or "that you have [carried out/conducted] on behalf of our uncle." This needs resolution against better readings.

"espats [?]" — Likely a form of *espatxar* (to dispatch, deal with): "we wish that you not deal with other affairs." Could also be a contracted form of *esperets* (wait for), but the transitive construction with *altres affers* strongly favors *espatxar* or a synonym. The exact letter forms are uncertain.

"de tot vinos [?]" — I believe this is "de tot vos ne" (entirely, [come] from there) run together by the scribe, but the letter forms between "tot" and the next clear word are difficult. The sense is: "but leaving all those [affairs] aside entirely, come from there to us."

"taredare [?]" — Likely a Latinized or hybrid form of Catalan *tardar* (to delay): *sens taredare* = "without delay." The exact vowels are uncertain but the meaning is not.

"Scertes [?]" — The word or notation at the very end of the date line, after "M ccc lxxx vij," is unclear to me. It could be a scribal notation, an abbreviated form, or part of the validation apparatus. I cannot confidently resolve it.

"let" — Almost certainly *letra* abbreviated, but noting it since the abbreviation mark is faint.

"barcha" — Standard abbreviation for *Barchinona* / Barcelona, with suspension.

Ready for Stage 2 whenever you have your alternative transcription or HTR output.

Here is the alternative HTR output for Stage 2: La Reyna, Vescomte rebuda haure v[ost]ra let[r]a responsiva. E plau nos molt l'enbaçada q[ue] d['] n[os]t[re] molt car oncle lo Rey d'França de va ia. E volem q[ue] no espats altres affers en Avinyó ne en altre part/ me aquello legat[r]s d'retornar en vinguis anos dret camí ab los ambaixadors sennore d'ore/ no contrastants qualssevol letres o manaments contraris q[ue] hayats hauts d'aturar p[er] fer

certes coses en Avinyó o per los quals en altra manera v[ost]ra venguda se degues o pogues retardar. Dada en Barcha sots n[ost]re segell secr[et] acostumat a iij dies d'Març dl'any m.ccc.lxxx.vij. Cecil[ia]. [Bottom left] vicescomiti d'Roda. [Bottom right signature] D[omi]na Regina mandavit mihi / Bartolomeo Sirvent

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Systematically adjudicated medieval manuscript divergences through careful textual comparison

Systematically adjudicated medieval manuscript divergences through careful textual comparison

- 1.
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Stage 2: Reconciliation

(a) Where the HTR corrects or improves the initial reading

"l'embaxada" — The HTR's word division as *l'enbaxada* (with the article separated) is correct and I should have reflected this more clearly. However, the HTR's form "enbaçada" with a cedilla is almost certainly wrong; the manuscript shows *embaxada* or *enbaxada*, the standard Catalan form. Preferred: **l'embaxada**.

"segell secret" — The HTR reads *segell secret* where I had *segell priuat*. Returning to the image, the abbreviated word after *segell* does appear to have the stroke pattern consistent with *secret* rather than *priuat*, and *segell secret acostumat* is a very common formula in Violant's chancery. Preferred: **segell secret**.

"hayats" — The HTR's *hayats* versus my *hauats*. Both are defensible variant spellings of the 2pl subjunctive of *haver*, but looking again at the letter forms, the HTR's reading is slightly more plausible paleographically — I can see what looks like a y descender rather than a *u* form. Preferred: **hayats**.

"degues o pogues" — The HTR reads *degues* where I had *segues*. Returning to the manuscript, the initial letter does look more like a *d* than an *s*, and *se degues o pogues retardar* ("should be delayed or could be delayed") makes better grammatical and formulaic sense than *se segues* ("should follow"). Preferred: **se degues o pogues retardar**.

(b) Where the initial reading is preferred

"**havem**" — The HTR reads *haure* (future: "we will have received"), but the standard chancery opening formula is *rebuda havem vostra letra responsiva* ("We have received your responsive letter"). Looking at the manuscript, the letter forms support *havem*, not *haure*. Preferred: **havem**.

"**mes aquells lexats de tot ... en vinguats a nos**" — The HTR's reading of this central clause — *me aquello legatrs d'retornar en vinguis anos* — is badly garbled. Several corrections:

- *mes* (but), not *me*: the final *s* is visible.
- *aquells* not *aquello*: the ending is clearly *-ells*.
- *lexats* (leaving aside), not *legatrs*: this is the key verb — *lexar* = to leave/abandon. The HTR has misread the *x* as *g* and scrambled the ending. The imperative *lexats* fits the syntactic structure perfectly: "but leaving those [affairs] aside entirely, come to us."
- *vinguats* (2pl imperative/subjunctive of *venir*), not *vinguis* (2sg): the formal address to the Viscount throughout the letter uses 2pl forms (*volem que no espats, hayats haults*), so *vinguats* is required for consistency.

Preferred: **mes aquells lexats de tot vos ne vinguats a nos** (see note below on *de tot vos ne*).

"**sens tardare**" — The HTR's *sennore d'ore* is nonsensical. The manuscript clearly reads *sens tardare* ("without delay"), a routine formula. The HTR has completely misread this. Preferred: **sens tardare**.

"**ambaxadors**" — The HTR gives *ambaixadors*. Looking at the manuscript, I see *ambaxadors* without the *i* before the *x*. Minor point, but: Preferred: **ambaxadors**.

"**xiiij dies de març**" — The HTR reads *iiij* (4 March). Returning to the image, there are clearly more minims than four before the *j* — I count an initial *x* followed by *iiij*, giving 14 March. Preferred: **xiiij dies de març**.

(c) Where both readings are uncertain or neither is satisfactory

The crux: "vos ha vist [?]" / "de va ia" — This is the most difficult passage in the document. After *lo Rey d'França* the manuscript has a short clause before the period and

the next sentence beginning *E volem*. I read *vos ha vist*; the HTR gives *de va ia*. Neither is satisfying:

- *vos ha vist* ("you have seen") is semantically odd with *l'embaxada* as subject — "the embassy that ... you have seen from the King of France" is not a natural construction.
- *de va ia* is not meaningful Catalan.

Returning to the image, I now think the most plausible reading may be **ve naia** or **venia**, i.e., a form of *venir* in the imperfect or a hybrid spelling: "the embassy that from our dear uncle the King of France was coming / comes to you." Alternatively, this could be **ve ja** ("comes already"). The contextual sense demands something like: "It pleases us greatly, the embassy that our dear uncle the King of France [has sent / is sending / has directed to us]." I mark this as **unresolved** — the exact letter forms remain ambiguous between *vos ha [verb]* and *ve [n/j]a*. The overall meaning of the sentence is not in doubt, but the precise verb form is.

Final word after the date: "Scertes [?]" / "Cecil[ia]" — Neither reading is confident. The HTR suggests *Cecilia*, which could be a registration name, but the letter forms don't clearly support it. My *Scertes* was a placeholder. Looking again, I wonder if this might be an abbreviated notarial formula or a scribal identifier, but I cannot resolve it with confidence. Marked as **unresolved**.

"de tot vos ne" — In my initial transcription I flagged *vinos* as uncertain and suggested it was *vos ne* run together. The HTR's *d'retornar* is definitely wrong, but I remain only moderately confident in *de tot vos ne* as the correct word division. The sense "leaving all those [affairs] aside, come from there to us" works well, but the exact letter forms between *tot* and *vinguats* are cramped and partially ambiguous.

(d) Reconciled Transcription

La Reyna

Vescomte rebuda havem vostra let[ra] responsiva. E plau nos molt l'embaxada que de nostre molt car oncle lo Rey d'ffrança vos ha [?] [*reading unresolved: possibly ve ja, venia, or vos ha vist*]. E volem que no espats altres affers en Avinyó ne en altre part, mes aquells lexats de tot vos ne [?] vinguats a nos direct camí ab los ambaxadors sens tardare / no contrastants qualssevol letres o manaments contraris que hayats hauts d'aturar per fer certes coses en Avinyó o per los quals en altra manera vostra venguda se degues o pogues

retardar. Dada en Barcha sots nostre segell secret acostumat a xiiij dies de Març de l'any Mccc lxxx viij. [word/notation unresolved]

vicecomiti de Roda

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Ready for your corrections or for Stage 3 whenever you'd like to proceed.

Before Stage 3, let me help you with some of the identified persistent uncertainties. After "lo Rey d[e] França" my reading of the two short words are "ve aci" and then there is a strong punctuation mark before "E volem..." The final word after the date is likely *Secretem* or *Secretum*. The abbreviation mark over the second half of the word is one that often indicates a "re" or "ri" and the ending of the word often indicates "um," "em," or "is." The date is definitely the 4th of March. The character before "iiii" is the letter "a." Where you see "de tot vos" at the end of the third line, you are correct, but there is a weak punctuation mark after "tot." So the phrase ends "lexats de tot" and then a new phrase begins vos en vingats..."

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Reconciled textual uncertainties and integrated corrections for transcription refinement

Reconciled textual uncertainties and integrated corrections for transcription refinement

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Excellent — all four corrections are convincing and I should have seen some of these. Let me update:

"ve aci" — Perfect. "The embassy that from our dear uncle the King of France comes here" — *ve aci* makes immediate sense, and what I was reading as a *st* cluster in *vist* is simply the *c* of *aci* plus the strong punctuation mark you note. The semantics are now completely clear.

"a iiij dies de Març" — You're right. What I was reading as an initial *x* is the preposition *a*, which is standard in the dating formula (*a iiij dies de Març*). 4 March 1387.

"**lexats de tot. vos en vinguats a nos**" — The weak punctuation mark after *tot* resolves the word division problem cleanly. Two separate clauses: "leaving those aside entirely" [stop] "come from there to us directly." And *vos en vinguats* rather than *vos ne vinguats* — the adverbial pronoun *en* (= from there) is the correct form.

"**Secret[am/um]**" — As a registration note glossing *segell secret acostumat*, this is entirely standard. The abbreviation pattern you describe (the *re/ri* mark plus the terminal stroke for *-um/-em*) fits. Likely *Secretam* agreeing with an implied *litteram* or *Secretum* agreeing with *sigillum*.

Updated Reconciled Transcription

La Reyna

Vescomte rebuda havem vostra let[ra] responsiva. E plau nos molt l'embaxada que de nostre molt car oncle lo Rey de ffrança ve ací. E volem que no espats altres affers en Avinyó ne en altre part, mes aquells lexats de tot. vos en vinguats a nos drect camí ab los ambaxadors sens tardare / no contrastants qualssevol letres o manaments contraris que hayats hauts d'aturar per fer certes coses en Avinyó o per los quals en altra manera vostra venguda se degues o pogues retardar. Dada en Barcha sots nostre segell secret acostumat a iiij dies de Març de l'any M ccc lxxx vij. Secret[am].

vicecomiti de Roda

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Ready for Stage 3 whenever you like.

Looks great. Let's move to Stage 3.

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Verified file readiness for progression

Verified file readiness for progression

A rich little document — the urgency is palpable, especially the *no contrastants* clause explicitly overriding any prior orders. The timing two months into Joan I's reign makes the diplomatic context particularly interesting.

One thing worth flagging: my identification of the Viscount of Roda with the Pinós family in footnote 8 is based on general knowledge of the viscounty's holders — you may want to verify the specific individual against the registers for this period, since I'm not confident enough in the exact name to supply one.

Violant viscount roda 1387 03 04 translation

Document · MD

Want to be notified when Claude responds?

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