

Gemini Version 3

March 1, 2026

Conversation with Gemini

You said

I am uploading an image of a fourteenth-century document written in Gothic secretarial hand. The language is Catalan. It was written in the year 1387 and is from the Archive of the Crown of Aragon. Please do your best to give me a transcription of this letter.

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Gemini said

This is a fascinating document from the Royal Chancery of the Crown of Aragon. The hand is a classic 14th-century **Gothic cursive (secretarial)**, characterized by its fluid, looping ascenders and frequent use of standard medieval abbreviations (like the "p" with a stroke for *per* or *pro*, and the "v" with a superscript for *vostra*).

Based on the image provided, here is a transcription of the Catalan text. I have expanded the common abbreviations into brackets for clarity.

Transcription

La Reyna Desornie [?] 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 iiij dies d'Març dl'any m.ccc.lxxx.vij. Cecil[ia].

[Bottom left] **vicescomiti d'Roda**. [Bottom right signature] **D[omi]na ep[is] m[an]u m[ea]**
/ Barch[inon]a s[er]vent

Key Details & Context

- **The Date:** The text explicitly mentions the date at the end: "**iiij dies d'Març dl'any m.ccc.lxxx.vij**" (4th of March, 1387).

- **The Subject:** The Queen is acknowledging a response regarding an embassy from her "very dear uncle, the King of France." She is commanding the recipient to set aside all other business in Avignon (then the seat of the Papacy) and return to her immediately with the ambassadors.
- **The Royal Seal:** She mentions the letter is given under her "**segell secret**" (secret/private seal) in "**Barcha**" (an archaic or shorthand form for Barcelona).
- **The Recipient:** The note at the bottom left indicates this was addressed to the **Vicescomiti d'Roda** (the Viscount of Roda).
- **The Queen:** Given the date (1387), the "Reyna" is likely **Sibila de Fortià**, the fourth wife of Peter IV (who died in January 1387), or more likely **Violant de Bar**, the wife of the newly crowned John I of Aragon. The signature "Cecilia" or a similar chancery mark often refers to the scribe or a specific household official authorizing the document.

Would you like me to provide a more detailed modern Catalan translation or a full English translation of the letter's contents?

Gemini is AI and can make mistakes.