

Stage 3 Translation: ACA, Cancillería, Registros, Núm. 1751, ff. 037–044

Document Summary

This dossier, drawn from the registers of Joan I of Aragon (r. 1387–1396), contains the diplomatic apparatus for a major embassy dispatched from Barcelona to the papal curia of Clement VII at Avignon in early 1388. The dossier comprises:

1. **A short letter of credence to Clement VII** (f. 037), dated 24 February 1387, entrusting an earlier mission to a royal secretary named Lugnum [?]. This is the earliest document in the group, dating to only seven weeks after Joan I's accession.
2. **Articles for a marriage treaty** between Louis II of Sicily-Naples and one of Joan I's daughters (ff. 037–038), in Catalan, addressing dowry, dower, and the renunciation of Angevin-Mallorcan territorial claims.
3. **Four Latin letters of credence** (ff. 039, 044), dated 6 March 1388, accrediting the embassy of Archbishop García Fernández de Heredia of Zaragoza, Pere Dartés (knight, *camarlenc*), and Ramon de França (*legumdoctor*, vice-chancellor of Aragon): one to Clement VII, one to the College of Cardinals, and two to individual prelates or cardinals.
4. **Fifteen articles of supplication** (*capitula credencie*) to Clement VII (ff. 040–043), covering: the remission of feudal tribute for Sardinia and Corsica; royal patronage over ecclesiastical benefices; matrimonial dispensation powers for the archbishops of Tarragona and Zaragoza; an eleven-year grant of ecclesiastical tithes; remission of penalties incurred under Pere III during the schism; the promotion of two Aragonese prelates to the cardinalate; the barony of Alcoy and the Loria inheritance; confirmation of benefices collated during the schism; liturgical privileges for Joan I and Queen Violant; restrictions on non-native and absentee benefice-holders; limitations on cardinals' plural benefices; the elevation of the abbey of Ripoll; pontifical insignia for the abbot of Poblet; and the revocation of contumacy proceedings from the schism era.
5. **A Castilian letter** (f. 044), dated 6 March 1388, addressed to the "Maestre" (Grand Master) of a military order — probably the Grand Master of the Hospital — requesting support for the same embassy.

The principal scribe is **Pere Beniure** (P. Secretarius), with **Bartomeu Sirvent** as notary for the Catalan marriage articles. The presence of Queen Violant de Bar and the Duke of Montblanc (the Infante Martí) is noted at the issuance of the marriage articles.

I. Letter to Clement VII with Credence for the Secretary Lugnum [?]

[f. 037 — Latin — 24 February 1387]

Most holy father. We have seen fit to pour forth humble and devoted prayers to Your Beatitude, not from a great distance,¹ through Lugnum [?], [our] household secretary.² We are sending him back to you, and through the present [letter] we humbly and trustingly beseech Your Beatitude that, for love of us, having heard the supplications set forth to you by him, [Your Holiness] may deign to [grant them], as the trust placed in your grace and benevolence warrants, just as we shall hold ourselves bound to [you] for devoted and ready service worthy of praise. May the Almighty preserve [Your Holiness] for long ages. Given at Barcelona under our secret seal, the 24th day of February, in the year of the Nativity of the Lord 1387.³ By King John.

Rubric

Articles of credence for the aforesaid negotiation, sealed, [delivered] to the lord Lugnum [?].

The lord King commanded [this]. Bartomeu Sirvent.⁴

II. Marriage Articles: Louis of Sicily and an Infanta of Aragon

[ff. 037–038 — Catalan — undated, but contextually 1387–1388]

Concerning the matter of the marriage being negotiated between King Louis of Sicily⁵ and one of [?] the Infantas, daughters of the lord King — which marriage was proposed to the said lord King on behalf of our lord the pope⁶ — it appeared that the following things should be done:

[1] First, that the said lord King should give to his said daughter — that is, to whichever [daughter] it shall please him to make the said marriage — one hundred thousand gold florins of Aragon⁷ as dowry with the said King of Sicily and Jerusalem,⁸ payable in such installments and terms, and with such securities, as shall be reasonably agreed upon.

[2] Item, that the said King [Louis] shall make delivery and assign to the said Infanta, on account of the said one hundred thousand florins, [and shall] pledge and place in [her] hands good revenues and places⁹ that shall be assigned and delivered to her as her *cambra*,¹⁰ to be held or possessed by her with full and complete lordship.

[3] Item, that the said King Louis, with the assent and in the manner of the said Queen his mother¹¹ and his guardian or curator, or in whatever other manner may be done most solemnly and best,

[f. 038 continues]

may make renunciation, remission, release, and donation to the lord King [of Aragon], both generally and of every action and right that he has or may have had, now or in the future, in and over the Kingdom of Mallorca and the Counties of Rosselló and Cerdanya¹² — whether by reason of any cession or donation made to his father or to himself by the Infant of Mallorca,¹³ or by [?] the Infanta his sister who was [marchioness?] of Montferrat,¹⁴ or yet generally by any other title, right, cause, or reason.

[4] Item, [that he] likewise make to the said lord King a renunciation, remission, release, and pure and general donation of every right and action that he has or that pertains to [him], or [that he] has had and that may pertain

to him, now or in the future, by any title, right, reason, or cause, in the Kingdom of [Romania? / Sardinia?] [?], the Duchy [?].¹⁵

Notarial Subscription (f. 038)

The lord King commanded [this]. Bartomeu Sirvent. The lady Queen and the lord Duke [were present].¹⁶ P[ere Beniure]. Other original copies [of the document] were [deposited in various?] places.

III. Letter of Credence to Clement VII

[f. 039 — Latin — 6 March 1388]

Most holy and most blessed father. As there come before the apostolic see and your person the Reverend Father in Christ García, by divine providence Archbishop of Zaragoza,¹⁷ and the beloved and faithful Pere Dartés, knight, *camarlenc*,¹⁸ and Ramon de França, doctor of laws, vice-chancellor of the Kingdom of Aragon,¹⁹ our counsellors and ambassadors, concerning certain arduous matters touching upon God, the faith, and both your honor and our own — [we ask that] you deign to lend them faithful credence, and to receive and hear them as recommended, so that through your fruitful and friendly intervention they may return with the aforesaid business brought to a happy conclusion. Given at Barcelona under our secret seal, the sixth day of March, in the year of the Nativity of the Lord 1388. King John.

IV. Letter of Credence to the College of Cardinals

[f. 039 — Latin — 6 March 1388]

Reverend fathers and dearest friends. Because, concerning the arduous business of the mother Church and of our own [affairs], before the Roman curia, we have determined to send the Reverend Father in Christ García, by divine providence Archbishop of Zaragoza, and the beloved and faithful Pere Dartés, knight, chamberlain, and Ramon de França, doctor of laws, vice-chancellor of the Kingdom of Aragon, our counsellors and ambassadors, more fully informed in person of our mind and intention — we earnestly beseech your fatherhoods and friendships that to all things that the said our ambassadors shall relate before your sacred college you deign to lend full and faithful credence [and to receive them as recommended, so that they may return with the business happily concluded]. Given at Barcelona under our secret seal, the sixth day of March, in the year of the Nativity of the Lord 1388. King John.

It was sent to the College of Cardinals.

V. Letter of Credence to an Individual Cardinal (the Cardinal of Embrun [?])

[f. 039 — Latin — 6 March 1388]

Reverend father and dearest friend. Concerning your primatial dignity [?] and friendship, and the generous affections with which you advance our honors and causes, we give heartfelt and intimate thanks, and we are moved to render [you] manifold and worthy gratitude. We earnestly beseech [you], concerning those things that the Reverend Father in Christ García, by divine providence Archbishop of Zaragoza, and the beloved and faithful Pere Dartés, knight, chamberlain, and Ramon de França, doctor of laws, vice-chancellor of the Kingdom of Aragon, our counsellors and ambassadors, having been duly appointed, shall relate on our behalf — [that you] lend faithful credence to them concerning these and other matters touching our affairs and our concerns, and that in [all matters] for which they may have recourse to you, you show yourself cordially, as we firmly trust, with favorable and ready, diligent and assiduous assistance. So that our said ambassadors, supported by your aid and favor, may return to us speedily, happily concluded [in their business], and with joyful report in person — as we confidently expect from your primatial [?] foresight and prudence. And in the management of your affairs we [offer our] affectionate [services], with promising tokens of good hope, which bind and oblige us freely to your good pleasure, proven in effect by your friendship and fatherly affection. Given at Barcelona under our secret seal, the sixth day of March, in the year of the Nativity of the Lord 1388. P. Secretary.

It was sent to the Cardinal of Embrun [?].²⁰

VI. Articles of Credence Given to the Aforesaid Ambassadors: Supplications to Clement VII

[ff. 040–043 — Latin — contextually March 1388]

Your humble and devoted son John, by the grace of God King of Aragon, supplicates Your Holiness that you deign to benignly receive and piously hear the supplications written below, together with the appropriate executory [letters] in [due] form.²¹

[1] Remission of Feudal Tribute for Sardinia and Corsica

First, since the said King holds from the Roman Church the kingdoms of Sardinia and Corsica in fief,²² subject to a fixed annual census,²³ and because of the wars that for many years past have existed and still exist in the said kingdom,²⁴ and because of the rebellion of the Judge of Arborea,²⁵ and also because of the great and unbearable expenses that the King and his predecessors have had to endure for the maintenance of the said kingdom — [the King] has ceased to pay the said tribute or census of the kingdom for some years past, since his revenues do not otherwise suffice.

May [Your] Holiness deign graciously to remit to him the said tribute or census for the past period. And, in consideration of [the fact] that with all [their] labors and sacrifices his predecessors won the said kingdom from the hands of tyrants and acquired and sustained it, and the King himself [still] sustains [it] for the Roman

Church — may [Your Holiness] deign to grant and donate graciously to the said King and his successors in perpetuity [Your Holiness's] tribute and seal [?] and every allodial and feudal right of the Roman Church in the aforesaid kingdom; so that the said kingdom shall henceforth be the free and frank allodium of the said kings and their perpetual successors, exempt from every payment of tribute or census and from any other burden of whatever kind.

[2] Royal Patronage over Ecclesiastical Benefices

Item, so that the said King may better have suitable clerics in his chapel and household,²⁶ may [Your] Holiness deign to grant to the said King and his successors in perpetuity, in each cathedral church in the lands of the said King, the right of patronage over one dignity and one office and two canonries with prebends; and in each diocese in the dominion of the said King, [the right to present to] a certain rectory [?] or likewise a certain dignity and office, a canonry with prebend, and certain other [benefices to be] chosen once [?] by himself or his [successors]; so that the lord King and his successors, whenever [these benefices] shall fall vacant, may offer [candidates] or present suitable persons to them, with the ordinaries providing for those same suitable [persons] as [if they were] conferring [the benefices themselves].

[3] Matrimonial Dispensation Powers

Item, so that it should not be necessary, in order to obtain dispensation for the marriages described below, to have recourse to the Roman curia, and to obviate the dangers of travel — may Your Holiness deign to grant a commission and full power to the Archbishops of Tarragona and Zaragoza, both those now [in office] and those who shall be [in office] in future,²⁷ [to act] concerning marriages to be contracted within their [provinces] between any persons who are joined by any [degree of] consanguinity or affinity from this side [of the fourth degree] or any more remote degree of consanguinity or affinity — namely, that the said Archbishop of Zaragoza [may dispense] within his primatial [jurisdiction] and the said Archbishop of Tarragona [may dispense] in all other lands of the Royal Majesty, if it shall seem good to them, by apostolic authority.

[4] Ecclesiastical Tithes for Eleven Years

Item, may [Your] Holiness deign to grant to the said King the tithes of churches and ecclesiastical benefices within his dominion for a period of eleven years, so that with these [revenues] and the aid of his subjects he may recover the patrimony of the Kingdom of Aragon alienated on account of the said kingdom of Sardinia and Corsica.²⁸

[5] Remission of Penalties Incurred under Pere III during the Schism

Item, may [Your] Holiness deign graciously to remit to the said King and utterly release whatever [sums] were exacted and received by the most illustrious lord Pere, King of Aragon,²⁹ his father of venerable memory, and

by his officials, from the fruits and rights of the apostolic chamber [relating to] benefices [held by] vacant and absent ecclesiastical persons within his dominion; and likewise to grant and donate all and singular [the amounts] remaining [owed] to the said chamber on account of the affairs of ecclesiastics during the *indifferencia* of his said father,³⁰ and [those arising] under the pretext of the bulls of Bartholomew the antipope,³¹ by any possessors whatsoever, up to the day of death of his said father, within his kingdom — [remitting all] graciously and [granting] complete absolution for [the actions of] his said father.

And if perchance, against the said officials or commissioners, whether clerics or laypeople, any rancor or ill will on the part of [Your] Holiness is harbored [?] on account of [their said] conduct, may [Your Holiness] deign to receive them back into [your] grace.

[6] Promotion of Two Prelates to the Cardinalate

Item, may [Your] Holiness deign to promote to the rank and dignity of Cardinal two prelates or suitable clerics from his dominion, whom the said lord King shall have chosen and nominated for this purpose, [granting the said promotion] graciously, when the opportunity to do so shall present itself.³²

[7] The Barony of Alcoy and the Loria Inheritance

Item, since the said King [holds], by hereditary right granted to his predecessors and to himself, [the right over] the noble ~~Margarita~~³³ de Loria, Countess of Terranova, who holds and possesses the town and barony of Alcoy, situated in the Kingdom of Valencia, [subject to] this restriction or condition: that the said barony may not be transferred or alienated to anyone other than the firstborn [*primogenitus*] of Aragon; and that the said barony [shall revert] to the Roman Church [if this condition is violated] [?] — may [Your] Holiness deign to remove the said condition or restriction entirely, and graciously to grant to the said King that he may [transfer] the said town and barony to the illustrious infante [name uncertain],³⁴ his dearest brother, and his perpetual successors, by free will to alienate and transfer [them], notwithstanding the aforesaid right of the Roman Church, and notwithstanding the aforesaid restriction, nor any other [impediments] whatsoever.

[8] Confirmation of Benefices Collated during the Schism

Item, since during the *indifferencia* of the said lord his father, many rectories, canonries, offices, chaplaincies, and other ecclesiastical benefices fell vacant in his lands, which were collated by chapters, abbots, and other ordinaries by ordinary authority — and since the clerics possessing the said benefices [have faced] disputes and outcry, especially from those who complained, [leading to] great expense, and from which factionalism and wars and other infamous and grave scandals have arisen, which in the expectation [of resolution he] was forced by necessity to allow to continue —

May [Your] Holiness deign to confirm those who presently hold the said benefices, or [to grant them] anew the said benefices in the manner aforesaid, even if [the benefices] were vacant in [canon] law or [were] reserved to

the disposition of the [apostolic] See; notwithstanding [the fact] that provision was made for them by the apostolic See, nor [notwithstanding] any other [impediments] whatsoever — since otherwise no remedy could conveniently obviate the said scandals and evils.³⁵

[9] Liturgical Privileges for the King and Queen Violant

Item, since by other apostolic authority it was granted to the said King that during a time of general interdict [and] excommunication, [with] those excluded, he may with his household, with doors open, hear divine [services] — may [Your] Holiness deign to extend the same license to the illustrious Yolant [Violant],³⁶ his consort, and to the firstborn [*primogenitus*] of the said King; and for all time, to all kings and firstborn of Aragon and their consorts, in [due] form.

[10] Restrictions on Non-Native and Absentee Benefice-Holders

Item, since certain ambitious clerics, including foreigners, who — not considering that by both canon and [civil] law [?] they [should not] hold benefices in every [?] land [but only where they reside], and who are not natives of the lands of the said King, and who perhaps do not even know the language of the said land [well enough to] conduct litigation or transact business — have, through importunity or by [their own] effort, hitherto obtained or otherwise usurped many ecclesiastical benefices in the said King's land and dominion. And since they do not reside [there], and [?] they defraud the said benefices of their due service [?], [the revenues] are drained [?], [and] his land is deprived of [resources for] the poor; and those from the said land who do reside there, [persons] of fragile [?] condition but who require the support [of these benefices] and are defrauded of their right — when sufficient [native candidates] are available and foreigners should not [hold] the said benefices.

Therefore the said King, being able and desiring to remedy these evils with insistence, supplicates [Your] Holiness that, concerning dignities and benefices falling vacant within his lands and dominion, or by decree [declared] vacant, even if reserved to the disposition of the apostolic See — [that Your Holiness] deign [to provide for] the clergy of the said King's [lands], of whom it is likely that they will actually reside [in their benefices]; adding the provision that, if even through importunity or otherwise any of the aforesaid dignities and benefices should be granted to foreigners, the ordinaries shall not be bound to admit them, nor may they [admit them] in any chapel [?], but rather, before all else, [Your] Holiness [shall] fulminate a sentence of excommunication against the ordinaries themselves or those who admit them.³⁷

[11] Restrictions on Cardinals Holding Benefices

Item, since benefices require personal residence, and when [various holders?] hold other benefices, many disadvantages follow — may [Your] Holiness deign to grant to the said King that in his land the said cardinals may not hold any benefice.³⁸ Just as was laudably observed by the lord [Pope] Innocent and afterwards by the lord [Pope] Urban of blessed memory, supreme pontiffs.³⁹

[12] Further Limitations on Cardinals' Benefices

Item, may [Your] Holiness deign to grant to the said King that no cardinal or cardinals may hold in any one cathedral [church] in his dominions more than one united dignity, or one administration or office — which in dignity after the pontifical [office] is not greater, nor [requires] election — and that in one diocese they may by no means hold more than two benefices, with or without [attached obligations?]; nor may they hold any right over [?] a patronage or any collegiate benefice.

[13] Elevation of the Abbey of Ripoll

Item, since for reasonable causes the King greatly desires that the monastery of the Blessed Mary of Ripoll,⁴⁰ of the order of Saint Benedict, immediately subject [to the Holy See], which is known for its notable condition and [its] wealth in vassals and revenues, should be raised to an abbey [?] — [and that the abbey] be totally separated from [the abbey of Ripoll / Montserrat?]⁴¹ — may [Your] Holiness deign to grant exemption and election in this matter, [which would be] expedient for the advantage and honor, not in small measure, of the said monastery of [Monte]serrat [?],⁴² to which the said King is bound by singular devotion and in which he has chosen his burial-place. And [may Your Holiness] grant pontifical insignia to the abbot of the said monastery, and [the rights] of the clergy of the said benefices [?] among [those of] the said monastery, by right and merit [?].

[14] Pontifical Insignia for the Abbot of Poblet

Item, since the monastery of Poblet,⁴³ of the Cistercian order, founded by the progenitors of the said King, is very distinguished and excels in ample resources and men of proven piety, and in which many bodies of the kings of Aragon have been gathered — may [Your] Holiness deign to kindly grant pontifical insignia to the abbot of the said monastery.⁴⁴

[15] Revocation of Contumacy Proceedings from the Schism Era

Item, since various lawsuits or disputes have been conducted in the Roman curia, and [proceedings] have gone forward against the absent by contumacy through public edicts [?] — against those who, whether summoned or cited during the *indifferencia* of the said father of the said King and their own lord by birth, did not dare to appear, by virtue of his [= Pere III's] command [threatening] deprivation of [their] persons and goods.

And [since] sentences based on the said contumacy were issued and promulgated against the aforesaid — and [since] it is reasonable that those who were prevented by impediment from appearing should not be [penalized] for the said contumacy — and [since] other penalties and scandals could follow therefrom:

The said King John supplicates [Your] Holiness that [you] deign to revoke and annul all [of] the said [proceedings] and the claims based thereon, and to restore [everything] fully to the state in which it was in the time of the lord Pope Gregory of happy memory.⁴⁵

King John.

Notarial Subscription (f. 043)

The lord King commanded [this].

P[ere] de Beniure.

VII. Letter of Credence to an Individual Prelate or Cardinal

[f. 044 — Latin — 6 March 1388]

Reverend father and dearest friend. Because, concerning arduous matters of the mother Church and of our own [affairs], before the Roman curia, [we send] the Reverend Father in Christ García, by divine providence Archbishop of Zaragoza, and the beloved and faithful Pere Dartés, knight, chamberlain, and Ramon de França, doctor of laws, vice-chancellor of the Kingdom of Aragon, our counsellors and ambassadors, fully informed of the conception of our mind, whom we have determined to send — [we] earnestly beseech your paternity and [your] great friendships that, to all things that the aforesaid [?] our ambassadors shall relate on our behalf, you be willing to lend unquestioning credence, and to receive them as so recommended that through [your] friendly [assistance] they may return happily concluded [in their business]. And [we] shall be deeply grateful to [your] paternity and friendship. Given at Barcelona under our secret seal, the sixth day of March, in the year of the Nativity of the Lord 1388. [Sent to] Francesco ça [?], bishop [?].⁴⁶

Notarial Subscription

The lord King commanded [this].

P[ere] de Beniure.

Registration Note

All [the foregoing letters] were drawn up and [dispatched?] by the aforesaid P[ere Beniure], the 27th of the month [?].⁴⁷

VIII. Castilian Letter to the Grand Master of a Military Order

[f. 044 — Castilian — 6 March 1388]

[Rubric:] The King of Aragon.

Master, dear friend.⁴⁸ Know that we are sending to the Holy Father our ambassadors — my lord of Zaragoza,⁴⁹ my lord Pere Dartés our chamberlain, and master B[ernat?] de França,⁵⁰ our vice-chancellor in the Kingdom of

Aragon — concerning certain matters touching our estate and that of the Church, and also yours [?], of which they are by us fully informed. Wherefore we ask you affectionately that to everything that they shall explain to you on our behalf, you give full faith and credence, and that you help them to dispatch in everything that you can, just as if we personally were telling you [this], in such manner that, with the said help, they may return to us promptly and briefly delivered of the said matters — and [so that] we may always have cause to thank you. Given in Barcelona under our secret seal, the sixth day of March, [in the] year 1388.

To the Master of Rhodes [?].⁵¹

Key Unresolved Ambiguities

1. **The identity of "Lugnum / Lugno"** (f. 037): The *secretarius domesticus* to whom the first set of articles of credence were entrusted in February 1387 remains unidentified. The name does not correspond to any known member of Joan I's household secretariat. Physical re-examination of the manuscript may yield a better reading.
2. **The second renunciation territory** (f. 038): The kingdom named in the second renunciation clause of the marriage articles is unresolvable from the available images. The candidates are the "Kingdom of Romania" (the Latin Empire), Sardinia, or possibly another Angevin claim. The word following it — "lo Ducat" (the Duchy) — compounds the difficulty, as it could refer to the Duchy of Athens, the Duchy of Durazzo, or another Angevin-held title.
3. **The Montferrat reference** (f. 038): The precise word preceding "de Montferrat" — whether *marquesa*, *muller*, or another term — determines whether the Infanta of Mallorca is identified by her marital title or by her husband's name. Both readings are defensible but neither is secure.
4. **The identity of the "brother" in Capitulum 7** (f. 041): The *fratrem suum carissimum* to whom the barony of Alcoy is to be transferred is almost certainly the Infante Martí, Duke of Montblanc, but the name as written in the manuscript is unclear in both sources.
5. **The Ripoll / Montserrat passage** (ff. 042–043): Capitulum 13 involves a request for jurisdictional reorganization of the monasteries of Ripoll and Montserrat, but the exact nature of the change — whether elevation, separation, or redistribution of privileges — remains garbled. The mention that the king chose his *sepultura* (burial-place) at the monastery is a significant detail for Joan I's funerary and devotional preferences, but it is unclear whether the burial choice refers to Ripoll or Montserrat.
6. **The addressee of the Castilian letter** (f. 044): The identification as the "Master of Rhodes" (*Magistro Rotensi*) is conjectural but historically plausible. If correct, it strongly suggests Juan Fernández de Heredia, who as Grand Master of the Hospital was both a major figure in Avignon politics and a kinsman of the chief ambassador.
7. **Various phrases in the capitula** (ff. 040–043): The heavy abbreviation and technical ecclesiastical Latin of several passages — particularly in Capitula 5 (schism-era penalties), 8 (confirmation of benefices), and

10 (foreign benefice-holders) — result in individual phrases where the general sense is clear but the exact wording remains uncertain. These are marked [?] in the reconciled transcription.

1. The phrase "non longe" likely refers to the relative proximity of Barcelona to Avignon — a standard rhetorical gesture in Aragonese correspondence with the papal curia. ↩
2. The name "Lugnum" is uncertain in both transcription sources. The term *secretarius domesticus* designates a member of the royal household entrusted with confidential missions, as distinct from the chancery secretaries who drafted and registered documents. ↩
3. This date — 24 February 1387 — places the letter only seven weeks after Joan I's accession on 5 January 1387. It represents one of the earliest diplomatic initiatives of the new reign toward Avignon. ↩
4. Bartomeu Sirvent acts as notary for the Catalan marriage articles and this introductory letter, distinct from Pere Beniure who handles the later Latin diplomatic correspondence. ↩
5. Louis II of Anjou (1377–1417), titular King of Sicily (Naples) and Jerusalem, son of Louis I of Anjou and Marie de Blois. At the time of these negotiations Louis was a minor, approximately ten or eleven years old. ↩
6. Clement VII (Robert of Geneva), the Avignon pope recognized by the Crown of Aragon during the Western Schism. His role as intermediary in the marriage negotiations underscores the close Avignon-Aragonese alliance. ↩
7. The gold florin of Aragon (*flori d'or d'Aragó*) was the standard gold coin of the Crown, modeled on the Florentine florin. One hundred thousand florins was an enormous dowry — comparable to the highest princely marriages in western Europe. ↩
8. The double title "King of Sicily and Jerusalem" reflects the Angevin claim to the kingdom of Naples (styled "Sicily" in their titlature) and the residual crusader title to the kingdom of Jerusalem, inherited through the Angevin-Hohenstaufen succession. ↩
9. "Lochs" = places, i.e., towns or lordships whose revenues would constitute the dower. ↩
10. The *cambra* (Latin *camera*) is the queen's or infanta's personal estate — a set of designated revenues, lands, and jurisdictions assigned to support her household. It is functionally equivalent to the English "jointure" or "dower." ↩
11. Marie de Blois (1345–1404), regent for Louis II during his minority. Her assent was required for any juridical act by the minor king. ↩
12. The Kingdom of Mallorca, together with the Counties of Rosselló (Roussillon) and Cerdanya (Cerdagne), had been reincorporated into the Crown of Aragon by Pere III after the defeat and death of Jaume III of Mallorca at Lluçmajor in 1349. The Angevin-Mallorcan claims arose through the marriage alliances of the dispossessed Mallorcan dynasty with the house of Anjou. Louis II's renunciation of these claims was a major diplomatic objective for Joan I. ↩
13. "L'Infant de Mallorques" — probably Jaume IV of Mallorca (d. 1375), the last male pretender of the Mallorcan dynasty, who had ceded or sold various rights to his Angevin relatives. ↩

14. The reference is to an Infanta of Mallorca who married into the house of Montferrat. The transcription is uncertain — "marquesa de Montferrat" is conjectural. This may refer to Isabella of Mallorca, though the precise identification requires further research. ↩
15. The second renunciation covers a different territorial claim — possibly the "Kingdom of Romania" (the Latin Empire, to which the Angevins held a claim through the Courtenay-Brienne succession) or Sardinia (over which both Aragon and Anjou held competing papal investitures). The text is too damaged or ambiguous to resolve. ↩
16. The presence of Queen Violant de Bar (*domina Regina*) and the Duke of Montblanc (*domino Duce* = the Infante Martí, Joan I's brother, created Duke of Montblanc in 1387) at the issuance of the marriage articles signals the political weight of these negotiations and the involvement of both the queen and the heir presumptive in the deliberations. ↩
17. García Fernández de Heredia, Archbishop of Zaragoza (1383–1411). He was one of the most prominent ecclesiastical figures in the Crown of Aragon during Joan I's reign and a nephew of the Grand Master of the Hospital, Juan Fernández de Heredia. His appointment as head of the embassy underscores its importance. ↩
18. Pere Dartés (*Petrus Dartés*), knight and *camarlenc* (chamberlain). The *camarlenc* was one of the principal officers of the royal household, responsible for the king's private chambers and personal effects, and frequently employed on diplomatic missions. ↩
19. Ramon de França (*Raymundus de ffrancia*), *legumdoctor* and vice-chancellor of the Kingdom of Aragon. The vice-chancellor was the chief legal officer of the crown in each of its constituent realms; the vice-chancellor "of the Kingdom of Aragon" had jurisdiction over Aragonese (as distinct from Catalan or Valencian) legal business, but was routinely employed in general royal diplomacy. ↩
20. The identification of the addressee as the "Cardinal of Embrun" (*Cardinalis Ebrunedensis* [?]) is uncertain. If correct, this likely refers to Jean de Brogny (c. 1342–1426), Cardinal of Viviers and formerly Bishop of Embrun, who was created cardinal by Clement VII in 1385 and became a key figure in the Avignon curia. However, the reading of the name is not fully secure. ↩
21. The phrase "cum non obstat opportunis de executoriis ut in forma" requests that each granted petition be accompanied by the standard papal letters of execution (*litterae executoriae*) that would give the concessions legal force. ↩
22. The Crown of Aragon held the kingdoms of Sardinia and Corsica as a papal fief, granted by Boniface VIII to Jaime II of Aragon in 1297 as a resolution to the War of the Sicilian Vespers. In practice, Aragonese control of Sardinia was contested and Corsica was never effectively governed. ↩
23. The annual census (*census*) was the feudal rent owed by the Aragonese kings to the papacy in recognition of the papal investiture. Joan I's request to have this remitted — and indeed to convert the fief into a free allodium — was an extraordinarily ambitious demand. ↩
24. The wars in Sardinia were endemic throughout the fourteenth century, pitting the Aragonese administration against the indigenous Sardinian *giudicati* (judgeships) and their Genoese allies. ↩

25. The "Judge of Arborea" (*iudex Arboree*) at this date was most likely Eleonora d'Arborea (c. 1340–1404), who governed the Giudicato of Arborea and was the principal Sardinian opponent of Aragonese rule. Her revolt had resumed in 1383, severely threatening Aragonese control of the island. ↩
26. The royal chapel (*capella*) and household (*domus*) required a staff of clerics for liturgical services, administration, and intellectual pursuits. This capitulum seeks to formalize the king's control over a fixed number of benefices across all the dioceses of the Crown, essentially creating a permanent system of royal ecclesiastical patronage. ↩
27. This request would have given the two metropolitan archbishops of the Crown of Aragon a standing delegation of papal authority to issue matrimonial dispensations — a power normally reserved to the pope himself. If granted, it would have significantly reduced the Crown's dependence on Avignon for routine dynastic and noble marriage arrangements. ↩
28. The request for an eleven-year grant of ecclesiastical tithes was a standard, if rarely granted, royal petition to fund military campaigns. The justification — that the crown patrimony had been depleted by the costs of defending Sardinia — links this request to the preceding capitulum about the feudal tribute. ↩
29. Pere III "the Ceremonious" (r. 1336–1387), Joan I's father. During the Western Schism, Pere III maintained a studied "indifference" between the rival popes, using the situation to extract revenues from the church within his domains. ↩
30. The *indifferencia* refers to Pere III's policy of neutrality between the Avignon and Roman obediences during the Western Schism (1378–1387). This policy allowed Pere to seize ecclesiastical revenues that would otherwise have flowed to one or the other papal treasury — but left his officials potentially liable to canonical penalties once Joan I declared for Clement VII at Avignon. ↩
31. "Bartholomew the antipope" = Urban VI (Bartolomeo Prignano, r. 1378–1389), recognized as pope by the Roman obedience but styled "antipope" (*antipapa*) by the Avignon party. The reference to "bulls of Bartholomew" covers any papal provisions or grants made by Urban VI that affected benefices in the Crown of Aragon. ↩
32. The request for two Aragonese cardinals reflects the Crown's chronic underrepresentation in the Sacred College. At this period the Avignon college was heavily dominated by French and southern French cardinals; increasing Aragonese representation was a key diplomatic objective for Joan I. ↩
33. The name "Margarita" is struck through in the manuscript, suggesting an error by the scribe. The Loria family (de Lauria/de Llúria) were descendants of the famous Aragonese admiral Roger de Llúria (d. 1305). The Countess of Terranova at this date would have been a member of this lineage holding the barony of Alcoy in the kingdom of Valencia. ↩
34. The identity of the "brother" (*fratrem suum carissimum*) is uncertain in both transcription sources. The most likely candidate is the **Infante Martí** (later Martí I, r. 1396–1410), Duke of Montblanc, who was Joan I's only surviving brother and is elsewhere in this dossier identified as "the Duke" (*domino Duce*) in the notarial subscription on f. 038. However, neither transcription clearly reads "Martinum." ↩

35. This capitulum addresses one of the most practically urgent consequences of the schism for the Crown of Aragon. During Pere III's *indifferencia*, benefices had been filled by local ordinaries without papal confirmation. Joan I now needed Clement VII to ratify these appointments retroactively, lest the benefice-holders face legal challenges from rival claimants with papal provisions from either obedience. ↵
36. Yolant (Violant) de Bar (1365–1431), queen consort of Joan I, daughter of Robert I, Duke of Bar, and Marie de France. The extension of the liturgical privilege to her personally — and to all future queens and firstborn — reflects both her political prominence and the practical reality that the queen and her household routinely attended services together with the king. ↵
37. This capitulum seeks sweeping protectionism for native Aragonese clergy, effectively asking the pope to bar non-natives from holding benefices in the Crown of Aragon and to empower — indeed compel — local ordinaries to refuse foreign appointees. The theological and canonical arguments marshaled (residency requirements, linguistic competence, duty of care to the poor) were standard polemical tools in fourteenth-century disputes over "alien priories" and provision of non-natives. ↵
38. This is an extraordinary request: that no cardinal should be permitted to hold any benefice within the Crown of Aragon. Cardinals were among the most prolific pluralists in the medieval church; their accumulation of benefices in *commendam* was a perennial source of friction between the papacy and secular rulers. ↵
39. The popes cited as precedent are probably Innocent VI (r. 1352–1362) and Urban V (r. 1362–1370), both Avignon popes who had attempted to curb the excesses of curial pluralism. ↵
40. The monastery of Santa Maria de Ripoll (in Latin *Rivipullum*), one of the most ancient and prestigious Benedictine foundations in Catalonia, founded in 879 by Count Wilfred the Hairy. By the late fourteenth century it was closely associated with the Catalan counts and the Aragonese royal house. ↵
41. The transcription of this passage is garbled in both sources, making it difficult to determine the precise nature of the jurisdictional request. It appears to involve separating the governance of two monasteries — Ripoll and Montserrat — or elevating one relative to the other. ↵
42. The monastery of Montserrat (in Latin *Mons Serratus*), situated in the famous mountain range near Barcelona, was at this period still a dependency or priory subordinate to Ripoll. Joan I's request — if correctly read — may involve elevating Montserrat to independent status or granting it enhanced privileges. The note that the king "chose his burial-place" there is significant: Joan I evidently intended Montserrat as his royal burial site, a departure from the traditional Aragonese royal pantheon at Poblet. ↵
43. The Royal Monastery of Santa Maria de Poblet (*Populetum*), the principal Cistercian foundation of the Crown of Aragon, located in the Conca de Barberà (Tarragona). Founded in 1151 under Ramon Berenguer IV, it served as the royal pantheon of the kings of Aragon from the thirteenth century. ↵
44. Pontifical insignia (*insignia pontificalia*) — the miter, ring, crosier, gloves, and sandals — were liturgical honors that elevated an abbot to quasi-episcopal dignity, allowing him to celebrate pontifical Mass and exercise certain functions normally reserved to bishops. The request underscores the royal house's close patronage of Poblet. ↵

45. Pope Gregory XI (r. 1370–1378), the last Avignon pope before the schism. The request to restore the *status quo ante* to "the time of Gregory" effectively asks Clement VII to undo all legal consequences of the schism within the Crown of Aragon — a sweeping amnesty covering contumacy proceedings, papal provisions, and property seizures that had accumulated since 1378. ↩
46. The addressee identification is uncertain. If "ffrancio ça episcopo" is correct, this may refer to a bishop named Francesc — possibly a suffragan of one of the Aragonese metropolitan provinces — but the name is not securely legible. ↩
47. This registration note appears to record that all the letters in this section of the register were copied out by Pere Beniure. The date "the 27th of the month" may refer to the date of registration rather than the date of dispatch. ↩
48. The salutation "Maestre caro amigo" (Master, dear friend) is the standard form of address from the king to the Grand Master of a military order, confirming that the addressee holds the title of "Master" (*Magister*). ↩
49. "Mossen de Saragoça" = the Archbishop of Zaragoza, García Fernández de Heredia, referred to by his see rather than by name, as was customary in vernacular correspondence. ↩
50. The initial "B." before "de ffrancia" is interesting — it may indicate that the scribe erroneously wrote the vice-chancellor's first name as Bernat rather than Ramon, or it could be a distinct individual. However, given that all the Latin letters consistently name the three ambassadors as García, Pere Dartés, and Ramon de França, the most likely explanation is a scribal error or abbreviation of "R" misread as "B." ↩
51. If the addressee identification "Magistro Rotensi" is correct, the letter was sent to the Grand Master of the Order of the Hospital of St. John, headquartered at Rhodes. The Grand Master in 1388 was **Juan Fernández de Heredia** (Master 1377–1396), an Aragonese nobleman from a powerful Navarrese-Aragonese family. Heredia was uncle to Archbishop García Fernández de Heredia of Zaragoza, who headed the embassy — making this a letter to the ambassador's own uncle. Heredia was deeply involved in Avignon politics and maintained close relations with Clement VII. The use of Castilian (rather than Catalan or Latin) for this letter is notable and may reflect the Aragonese-Castilian character of the Heredia family's linguistic milieu, or the conventions of correspondence with the Hospitaller order. ↩