

Claude Project, Opus 4.6

March 2, 2026

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

This next document is in Catalan. The first half is in the image file titled f23v and the second half is in the image file titled f24r. Please do your best to transcribe.

2:39 PM

Deciphered medieval Catalan royal decree addressing property seizure

Deciphered medieval Catalan royal decree addressing property seizure

I'll examine both images carefully. This is clearly an Aragonese royal letter — the language is Aragonese rather than standard Catalan, which fits a document addressed to the Governor of Aragon.

Stage 1: Initial Transcription

Document identification: Royal letter from Joan I ("El Rey") to the Governor of Aragon, rebuking him for failure to execute a prior order regarding the seizure of properties belonging to mossèn Bernat de Fortià and his sister (i.e., Queen Sibilla de Fortià) in Borja and Magallón. The letter threatens suspension from office. Dated Barcelona, [day uncertain] of [month uncertain], 1387. The historical context — the immediate post-accession reprisals against the Fortià faction — fits a date in January–February 1387.

f23v:

El Rey

Governador a muyto somos marauellados ende estamos fort [?] indignatos contra vos porq no expliets lo que vos heyamos embiado mandar sobre la ocupacion delos lugares de Borja e Borsa [?] de Magallon / e otros bienes de mossen B[er]n[a]t [?] de Fortian e de su hermana / la qual ocupacion man- damos per [ser?] feyta razonablement / a por dreyto del qual nos hauemos a vos la conosciencia ni determinacio [?] comenda / mas la

execucio / porq respondients [?] vos fuerthues [?] dela inobediencia e menosprecio q en esto cometessedes [?] vos dezimos e mandamos expressament / e de cierta sciencia q luego vista la present les [?] cumplades el dito nro mandamyento

f24r:

e tornets a vra mano los ditos lugares e bienes realment e de feyto exegundo las prouisions que daço [?] hauets como dito es / E si el contrario [?] agora por la hora vos suspenderemos del officio dela gouernacio e vos tiramos entegrament toda autoritat e exercici de aquell / ia no res menos sed [?] cierto q faremos de vos tal escarmiento q a vos sera pena e a los otros terror e exemplo / Dada en Barchelona dius nro siello secreto a · [?] · dias · d[e] · [month?] · del anyo · de nro senyor · M · ccc · lxxxvij · Rex Jo ·

fuit missa Garçia [?] Mannez [?] de Biora [?] Gubernatoris Aragon

[iussio:] d[omi]n[u]s Rex ma[ndauit] m · p · d[ominum] de Benviure [?] · p ·

Notes on uncertain readings:

f23v:

- **"a muyto"**: The first letter after "a" could be *m* or *n*; "a muyto" (= greatly) is the most plausible Aragonese reading.
- **"fort indignatos"**: The word before "indignatos" is short — possibly "fort" (= very), "to" (= so), or "fo" [?]. "Fort" fits the intensifier pattern well.
- **"Borsa [?] de Magallon"**: The word between "Borja e" and "de Magallon" is difficult. It could be a second place name ("Borsa" is not a known Aragonese town to me), or a misreading of "Borja" repeated, or possibly just "de" with a virgule — i.e., "de Borja e de Magallon."
- **"mossen B[er]n[a]t de Fortian"**: The abbreviated name after "mossen" is difficult but I read it as some form of "Bernat" given the historical context. "Fortian" = Fortià in Aragonese orthography. If this is Bernat de Fortià and "su hermana" is Sibilla, this document falls squarely in the anti-Fortià reprisals of early 1387.
- **"la consciencia ni determinacio comenda / mas la execucio"**: This is a key interpretive passage. I read the sense as: "we have entrusted (*comenda*) to you not the judgment (*consciencia*) nor the determination, but the execution" — i.e., the king told the governor to carry out the seizure, not to adjudicate its merits. But both "determinacio" and "comenda" are uncertain paleographically.

- **"respondients vos fuertiues"**: This phrase is the most problematic in the document. The sense should be something like "because you would answer for / be held responsible for the disobedience and contempt that in this you would commit." But I cannot confidently resolve either "respondients" or "fuertiues" — the latter could be a form of *guardar* (*guardiuos?*), a corruption, or something else entirely.
- **"cometiessedes"**: I initially read this as "tometesso" but "cometiessedes" (= you would commit) makes far better grammatical sense. The initial letter could be *c* rather than *t*.

f24r:

- **"daço"**: Likely "d'açò" (= regarding this), though the letter forms are compressed.
- **"E si el contrario"**: The word after "si el" is not fully clear; "contrario" fits the sense (= and if [you do] the contrary) and the threatening tone that follows.
- **"sed cierto"**: The imperative "sed" (= be) before "cierto" (= certain) fits the formula, but the first word could also be "ped" or another reading.
- **Date**: The day numeral and month are the most frustrating lacunae. I cannot confidently read either. The year is clearly M·CCC·LXXXVII (1387). January or February would be the most historically plausible months for this document.
- **"Garçia [?] Mannez de Biora"**: The name of the Governor of Aragon. "Mannez" could be "Martinez" or "Muñoz" depending on the abbreviation. "Biora" could be "Biota" (a place in Cinco Villas, Aragon). I'm not immediately certain who held the governorship of Aragon in January 1387 — this would help confirm or correct the name.
- **"de Benviure"**: The iussio formula names the intermediary through whom the king issued the order. "Benviure" is plausible for an individual in Joan I's early circle.

You have a great start. We are ready for Stage 2. Here is the HTR output from my other source: Transcription Folio 23v 1. El Rey 2. Governador. A cierto somos maravillados ende estamos so indignatio 3. contra vos porq[ue] no compliestes lo que vos hemos embiado mandar 4. sobre la ocupacion delos lugares de Borja et Magallon et otros bienes 5. de moss[en] P[er]jo de Fortian et de su germana la qual ocupacion man- 6. damos seer feyta razonablement et por dreyto del qual no hemos 7. a vos la conscientia ni determinatio cometida mas la executio porq[ue] 8. reputantes vos fuessedes de la inobediencia et menospreto q[ue] en 9. esto cometestes vos dezimos et mandamos espressament et de cierta sciencia 10. q[ue] luego vista la p[re]sent sea cumplido el d[ic]to n[uest]ro mandamiento Folio 24r 1. et tornedes a n[uest]ra mano los d[ic]tos lugares et bienes

realment 2. et de feyto executando las prissons que d'aquesto havedes como 3. dito es. En otra manera agora por la hora vos suspendemos 4. del officio de la governatio et vos tiramos integrament toda 5. auctoritat et exercitio d'aque]lla et no es menos sed cierto q[ue] 6. faremos de vos tal escarmiento q[ue] a los p[re]sents et a los otros 7. sea terror et exemplo. Dada en Barcelona su n[uest]ro siello secreto 8. a .x. dias de Março del anyo m.ccc.lxxx.vii. Rex Joh[ann]es. [Lower Left] 9. Dirigitur Sancho Martines de Biota 10. Gubernatori Aragonia [Lower Right Signature Block] 11. d[omi]nus Rex ma[ndavit] 12. m[ih]i P[etrus] de Benviure

Show more

2:48 PM

Systematically adjudicated manuscript divergences against HTR readings

Systematically adjudicated manuscript divergences against HTR readings

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

Excellent — the HTR provides a number of superior readings. Let me work through the divergences systematically against the manuscript images.

Stage 2: Reconciliation

(a) Where the HTR corrects my initial reading

f23v:

- **"A cierto" (HTR) vs. "a muyto" (mine):** Returning to the image, I now favor the HTR. "A cierto somos maravillados" (= certainly we are amazed) is more syntactically natural than "a muyto." The letter forms support *cierto*.
- **"no compliestes" (HTR) vs. "no expliets" (mine):** The HTR is clearly right. "Compliestes" (= you did not carry out) fits the sense perfectly and the initial letter is c, not e. My reading was poor.
- **"hemos" (HTR) vs. "heymos" (mine):** HTR correct. Standard Aragonese form.
- **"Borja et Magallon" (HTR) vs. "Borja e Borsa de Magallon" (mine):** The HTR is right — my "Borsa" was a phantom. The text reads straightforwardly as two place names conjoined.
- **"moss[en] P[er]jo de Fortian" (HTR) vs. "mossen B[er]n[a]t" (mine):** On re-examination, the initial letter of the abbreviated name does look more like a *P* with a stroke than a *B*. "Pero de Fortià" (= Pere de Fortià) is historically defensible — multiple members of the Fortià family were targeted in the 1387 confiscations. I had been anchored on Bernat because of his prominence, but the HTR's paleographic reading is more convincing. Worth noting, however, that if this is Pere rather than Bernat, it would be useful to confirm which Fortià family member held property in Borja and Magallón.
- **"seer feyta" (HTR) vs. "per feyta" (mine):** HTR correct. "Mandamos seer feyta razonablement" (= we ordered [it] to be done reasonably) — standard Aragonese infinitive construction.
- **"no hemos a vos la conscientia ni determinatio cometida" (HTR) vs. "nos hauemos... comenda" (mine):** This is a major correction. The HTR reading transforms the meaning: "we have *not* entrusted to you the judgment nor the determination, but [rather] the execution." The negative is essential to the logic of the rebuke. My reading had collapsed this into the opposite sense. "Cometida" (past participle, agreeing with *conscientia... determinatio*) is also better than my "comenda." HTR clearly correct.
- **"reputantes vos fuessedes" (HTR) vs. "respondients vos fuerties" (mine):** The HTR provides a grammatically coherent reading where mine did not. "Porque reputantes vos fuessedes dela inobediencia e menospreto" — the sense being "because, considering that you would be [guilty] of the disobedience and

contempt..."Fuessedes" (Aragonese imperfect subjunctive) is far superior to my garbled "fuertiues."

- **"cometestes" (HTR) vs. "cometiessedes" (mine):** "Cometestes" (preterite, = you committed) is more plausible here. The clause structure — "que en esto cometestes" — works better as a relative clause with an indicative ("which in this you committed") than with the subjunctive I proposed.
- **"sea cumplido el d[ic]to n[uest]ro mandamiento" (HTR) vs. "les cumplades el dito nro mandamyento" (mine):** HTR's passive construction ("let our said command be fulfilled") is more natural and better supported by the letter forms. "Sea" for my "les" is convincing on re-examination.

f24r:

- **"tornedes a n[uest]ra mano" (HTR) vs. "tornets a vra mano" (mine):** HTR correct — "nuestra mano" (= our hand, i.e., royal possession) is the standard formula.
- **"En otra manera" (HTR) vs. "E si el contrario" (mine):** HTR clearly correct. "En otra manera" (= otherwise) is a standard chancery threat formula. I misread the ligatures.
- **"d'aquella" (HTR) vs. "de aquell" (mine):** HTR correct — feminine, agreeing with the antecedent (presumably *governatio* or *auctoridat*).
- **Date: "a .x. dias de Março del anyo m.ccc.lxxx.vii" (HTR) vs. my uncertain reading:** The HTR gives 10 March 1387, which is historically plausible — the court was in Barcelona, and the Fortià reprisals were well underway by then.
- **"Dirigitur Sancho Martines de Biota / Gubernatori Aragonia" (HTR) vs. "fuit missa Garçia Mannez de Biora / Gubernatoris Aragon" (mine):** The HTR is substantially better. "Dirigitur" (= directed to) is a standard addressing formula. "Sancho Martines de Biota" is a much more convincing personal name than my "Garçia Mannez de Biora" — and Biota is a real Aragonese locality in Cinco Villas. My reading of the name was badly garbled.
- **"m[ih]i P[etrus] de Benviure" (HTR) vs. "m · p · d[ominum] de Benviure" (mine):** The HTR expansion of the iussio formula — "[dominus Rex mandavit] mihi Petro de Benviure" — is the standard form and almost certainly correct. Pere de Benviure is a known figure in Joan I's early chancery.

(b) Where my initial reading is preferred

- **"so indignatio" (HTR) vs. "fort indignatos" (mine):** Neither reading fully satisfies me, but the HTR's "so indignatio" is grammatically awkward — it would require "indignació" to be a noun used predicatively without an article. Looking at the manuscript again, I think the word before "indignato-/indignacio" may actually be "con" — yielding "ende estamos con indignacio" (= and so we are with indignation). This would be a third reading preferable to both. I mark this as unresolved; "con indignacio" is my best current proposal, but it remains [?].
- **"et de su germana" (HTR):** The HTR has "germana" where I read "hermana." Returning to the image, I think "hermana" may be slightly better — the initial letter looks like an *h*, and "hermana" is the standard Aragonese/Castilian form, whereas "germana" is more Catalan. However, "germana" is not impossible in an Aragonese document with Catalan scribal influence. Both defensible; I tentatively prefer "hermana" but mark as [?].
- **"menospreto" (HTR) vs. "menosprecio" (mine):** Both are variant forms of *menosprecio*. Looking at the manuscript, I think the ending may support the HTR's "menospreto" slightly better, but this is a close call. I adopt the HTR reading tentatively.
- **"executando las prissons" (HTR) vs. "exeguendo las prouisions" (mine):** This is a genuine divergence. "Executando las provisions" (= executing the orders) makes more immediate sense in context — the king is telling the governor to carry out the orders he has already been given. "Las prissons" (= the arrests/seizures) would also work if the original mandate included orders to arrest individuals. On balance, looking at the manuscript again, the word is difficult — but I think the HTR's "executando" is better than my "exeguendo" for the first word. The object ("prissons" vs. "prouisions") remains uncertain. I lean toward "provisions" for contextual reasons — the letter repeatedly references carrying out commands, not specifically arrests — but adopt [?].
- **"dius/su nuestro siello secreto":** The HTR reads "su" but the standard Aragonese formula is "dius nuestro siello" (= under our seal), from Latin *deorsum/subtus*. "Su" in the sense of "so" (= sub) is possible. Looking at the image, I think "dius" may in fact be what the scribe wrote, but this is very close. I adopt "dius" [?].

(c) Where both readings remain uncertain

- **"so/con/fort indignacio/indignatos":** As discussed above. Neither my reading nor the HTR's is grammatically clean. My best proposal is "con indignacio" [?].
- **"hermana" vs. "germana":** Both defensible. I adopt "hermana" [?].

- **"prouisions" vs. "prissons"**: Both contextually possible. I adopt "prouisions" [?] tentatively.
- **"dius" vs. "su"**: Both possible as "under." I adopt "dius" [?].
- **"a vos sera pena e a los otros / sea terror" (mine vs. HTR, line 6 of f24r)**: The HTR reads "a los presents et a los otros sea terror et exemplo" while I read "a vos sera pena e a los otros terror e exemplo." Looking at the image, I think there's a word before "pena" or "presentes" that I can't fully resolve. The HTR's reading — omitting "a vos sera pena" — gives a simpler construction. I tentatively adopt the HTR's reading but mark the passage [?].

(d) Reconciled Transcription

f23v:

El Rey

Governador. A cierto somos marvellados ende estamos con [?] indignacio contra vos porque no compliestes lo que vos hemos embiado mandar sobre la ocupacion delos lugares de Borja et Magallon et otros bienes de mossen Pero de Fortian et de su hermana [?] la qual ocupacion man- damos seer feyta razonablement et por dreyto del qual no hemos a vos la conscientia ni determinatio cometida mas la executio porque reputantes vos fuessedes dela inobediencia et menospreto que en esto cometestes vos dezimos et mandamos espressament et de cierta sciencia que luego vista la present sea cumplido el dito nuestro mandamiento

f24r:

et tornedes a nuestra mano los ditos lugares et bienes realment et de feyto executando las prouisions [?] que d'aquesto havedes como dito es. En otra manera agora por la hora vos suspendemos del officio dela governatio et vos tiramos integrament toda auctoridat et exercicio d'aquella et no es menos sed cierto que faremos de vos tal escarmiento que a los presentes [?] et a los otros sea terror et exemplo. Dada en Barchelona dius [?] nuestro siello secreto a .x. dias de Março del anyo M.CCC.LXXXVII. Rex Johannes.

Dirigitur Sancho Martines de Biota Gubernatori Aragonia

d[omi]n[u]s Rex ma[ndavit] m[ih]i P[etro] de Benviure · p ·

Ready for Stage 3 whenever you are, or let me know if you want to discuss any of the unresolved readings further.

Great work. Let's proceed to Stage 3.

2:53 PM

Synthesized readiness for advancing workflow

Synthesized readiness for advancing workflow

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Here's the complete Stage 3 deliverable. A few things I'd flag for your attention:

The most interpretively significant passage is footnote 6 — the *conscientia/determinatio* vs. *executio* distinction. Joan's insistence that the governor was delegated only the enforcement, not the adjudication, is a revealing window into how confiscation orders could be resisted at the local level by officials who claimed they needed to evaluate legality before acting. If you can find the original mandate this letter references, the pair would make a strong illustration of center-periphery friction in the early reprisals.

The threat of suspension is also striking for its immediacy — "agora por la hora" suggests the king expected this letter to produce compliance within days, not weeks. Combined with the use of the secret seal rather than the common seal, the whole document reads as a king who is losing patience with an Aragonese governor who may have had local reasons to slow-walk the Fortià confiscations.

The two most productive avenues for tightening the transcription would be confirming who held the governorship of Aragon in March 1387 (which would validate or correct "Sancho Martines de Biota") and identifying which Fortià held Borja and Magallón (which would settle the Pero vs. Bernat question).

Aca joan i to governor aragon 10 march 1387 translation

Document · MD

Want to be notified when Claude responds?

Claude is AI and can make mistakes. Please double-check responses.

Claude