

Claude Project, Opus 4.6

March 2, 2026

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

I have another letter in Catalan from 1387, written in fourteenth century Gothic Secretarial hand. This one is on the same topic as the last one, and is written by Queen Violant. It is in two parts, the first part in the image file titled f90v and the second part in the image file titled f91r. Please do your best to transcribe.

3:22 PM

Examined manuscript pages to transcribe medieval Catalan letter

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Here is my Stage 1 transcription of this letter from Queen Violant, spanning ff. 90v–91r:

Document type: Royal correspondence — a reprimand/mandate from Queen Violant de Bar to a royal governor regarding the delayed seizure of assets at Magalló.

Principal actors: Queen Violant de Bar (sender); the governor (addressee); mossèn Francesc ça Garriga; the Viscount of Roda (likely the same affair as the preceding document).

Date: 11 March 1387 (from the dating clause on f. 91r).

Transcription

[f. 90v]

Governador molt som meravellades e no sens raho moguda de axi en faver [?] dey [?] forma en gran dessuey [?] nostre e dampnatge nos havets dilatat e dilatats tant de [?] podets liurar lo Castell e viles de loch [?] de Magallo a mossen Francesch ça Garriga que havem trames per reebrels en nom nostre aquí pertanyen per certes rahons e titols bor [?] e en leu

[?] de cavalles [?] altres qualsevol de moneda que havets reebude e de [?] en pod vra [?] alse [?] rendes emoluments e drets als dits Castell e viles pertanyen a aço diverses maneres e rahons exquisides e colorades e no havets fundament algu en justícia ne en rao e per copaquet [?] per tot dret e honestat de vre offici e cornen en meys preu als manaments del senyor Rey sobre aço a nos fets als quals deuriets pertament [?] obehir majorment en los props [?] fets seus e mes e daquells prendre principal carrech. E si saviament entenets que per de vra Reyna e senyora no deuriets en nos o en mes fets usar de semblants actes mas anar dret cami e mostrar vos hi bon official e affectuosissidor [?] del senyor Rey e ire [?] per que repnes [?] vos en fortment de no solament ne siats digne de repnio [?] mas encara de aspera e greu correccio vos pregam volem e manam que tots dilacions foragitades liurets en gint [?] realment e de fet al dit mossen Francesch çà Garriga en nom ire lo dit Castell e viles desus dits e al dit leu [?] de cavalles tots los bens que haurets trobats en aquells e tot ço que reebut haurets e sia vers nos ales [?] resude [?] e drets daquells. E aço no mudets ne

[f. 91r]

tardets per neguna raho car certifficam vos que pendrets massa gran carrech per amor e conquerrets So eu smerets [?] per obra. Dat en Barchinona sots ire segell secret manumat [?] a xj dies de Març del any Mil ccc lxxxvij. Vi. deponir [?]

Al amat nostre mossen Sanxo Martinez de biota Conseller del senyor Rey e portantveus de Governador en lo Regne d'Arago.

[right margin:] Vre [?] Camt [?] insfe [?] eam sig- expedit .p.

Notes on this reading

This is a challenging document with several passages where the ink is heavy and letterforms merge. A few observations:

Relatively confident readings: The overall structure is clear — this is a stern reprimand to the governor (Sanxo Martinez de Biota, portantveus de Governador en lo Regne d'Arago) for his delay in handing over the castle and towns of Magalló to Francesc çà Garriga, acting on the queen's behalf. The dating clause is legible: 11 March 1387.

Key uncertainties:

The opening phrase after *maravellades* — I'm reading *en faver dey forma* but this is uncertain; it could be *en haver dey forma* or another construction. The sense seems to be

expressing the queen's astonishment at the manner (*forma*) in which the governor has delayed.

dessuey — possibly *desservey* (disservice), which would make excellent contextual sense: "to our great disservice and damage."

leu de cavalles — this phrase appears twice and I'm not confident in it. It could be a reference to a specific locality or a type of asset/revenue. The second letter grouping might be *canelles* or *cavalls*.

bor after *titols* — possibly *bons* (good) with a nasal bar, i.e., "good reasons and titles."

The chancery notation in the right margin of f. 91r is formulaic but partially illegible to me — likely an expediting clerk's note.

The addressee identification is solid: mossèn Sanxo Martínez de Biota, Conseller of the king and portantveus de Governador in the Kingdom of Aragon — a well-known figure in Joan I's early administration.

Shall I proceed to Stage 2 if you have an HTR reading, or would you prefer to offer corrections first?

Let's proceed to Stage 2 and here is the HTR from my other source: Transcription of f. 90v
Gouernador molt som marauellats e no sens raho moguda ab axi en fauor deu [?] de tan
gran desseruey p[re]u de e dapnatge n[ost]re hauets dilatat e dilatais liurar de poders
n[ost]res lo castell e viles de Berga e d'Aragallo a moss[en] Francesch de Garriga q[ue]
hauem tramès per reebrels en nom n[ost]re aqui p[er]mtyen p[er] certes rahons e títols hoc
e en lo d[it] de Canalias certes quantitats de moneda q[ue] hauets reebudes e p[er] en p[er]
d[i]ta via d'les vendes emoluments e drets d'los dits castell e vils p[re]tenen a vós
d'n[ost]res mans e rahons exquisides e colorades e no hauets fundamnet algú en iustícia ni
en raó e p[er] ço seguint ço que deuets e l'onestat de v[ost]re offici e corney en meys preu
d'los mana- ments del senyor rey e n[ost]res sobre açò a uós fets als quals deuriets
p[ro]mptamnet obeyr maiorment en los p[ro]p[er]s fors seua e meys e daguells pendre
donapal càrrech Et si sauiamnet p[er]uenyets q[ue] p[er] esser n[ost]ra reyna e senyora no
deuriets en vós o en meys fets usar d[e] semblants d'esforç mas anar dret camy e mostrar
uos hi bon official e affectuós s[er]ui- dor del senyor rey e n[ost]re p[er] que vepnet n[ost]re
en fortment de no volament ne siats digne de reprehensió mas encara d'aspre e greu
correctio uós p[er] d[i]ta n[ost]ra volem e mana- m[ent] d'totes dilacions foragitades liurets
en continent realment de fet al dit moss[en] Francesch de Garriga en nom n[ost]re lo dit
castell e viles desus d[i]tes e al dit en de Canalias tots los bens q[ue] hauets trobats en
aq[ue]lls e tot ço q[ue] reebut hauets e sia vers uós d'les vendes e drets d'aquells E açò no
mudets ni Transcription of f. 91r tardets p[er] neguna raho car certificam uós q[ue]

pendriets massa gran càrrech p[er] a nòs e conexeríets ço en síncerets p[er] obra Dat en Barçalona sots n[ost]re segell secret a n[ost]ru mat a XI dies de març l'any M CCC LXXX VII. La Reyna. Al amat n[ost]re moss[en] Simyo Martínez de Biota conseller del senyor rey e portantueu de governador en lo regne d'Aragó. (Note in lower right: Dominus Rex misit eam sig[nata] p[er] expet... P.)

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Systematically reconciled manuscript readings against HTR transcription across thirty divergences

Systematically reconciled manuscript readings against HTR transcription across thirty divergences

Stage 2: Reconciliation

This is a productive comparison — the HTR corrects several of my misreadings, while my transcription is preferable in other places. A number of passages remain genuinely difficult. I'll organize this per the project protocol.

(a) Where the HTR corrects my initial reading

1. *marauellats vs. my maravellades* — The HTR's masculine form *marauellats* is worth flagging, though for a queen using the royal plural, feminine *maravellades* would be expected. I'll revisit this below under uncertainties.

2. *ab axi en fauor deu [?] de tan gran desseruey vs. my de axi en faver dey forma en gran dessuey* — The HTR is substantially better here. I suspected *desservey* but couldn't parse the surrounding words; the HTR gives us the clearer structure "de tan gran desservey" (of such great disservice). The phrase before it remains uncertain in both readings — *en favor deu* is unclear and may be garbled in the HTR too.

3. *hauets dilatat e dilatats [tant de podets] liurar vs. HTR hauets dilatat e dilatats liurar de poders nostres* — The HTR's "liurar de poders nostres" (to deliver from our powers/possession) restructures this more plausibly, though I'm not fully confident in "de poders nostres" either. The sense is: "you have delayed and continue to delay delivering into our possession..."

4. *lo castell e viles de Berga e d'Aragallo* — The HTR reads two place names where I read only "Magallo." Given that the addressee is the governor of Aragon and the previous letter

concerned Magalló, I am skeptical of "Berga" (a Catalan town). However, looking at the manuscript again, there does appear to be more text than a single place name can account for. This needs further examination — see uncertainties below.

5. *certes quantitats de moneda vs. my altres qualsevol de moneda* — The HTR is clearly better; *certes quantitats* (certain quantities) is grammatically and formulaically superior.

6. *en lo dit de Canalias / en de Canalties vs. my leu de cavalles* — The HTR resolves what I garbled into a person's name: *en de Canalties* (the honorific *en* + surname *de Canalties/Canàlies*). This appears twice — first as "en lo dit de Canalias" and later as "al dit en de Canalties" — confirming it as a named individual involved in administering revenues. This is an important prosopographical correction.

7. *per ço seguint ço que deuets e l'onestat de vostre offici vs. my garbled per copaquet per tot dret e honestat de vre offici* — The HTR is clearly superior. "Per ço seguint ço que deuets e l'onestat de vostre offici" = "therefore, following what you owe and the honesty of your office." However, the relationship of this clause to what follows (the phrase about *menys preu*) is still syntactically difficult — see uncertainties.

8. *promptament vs. my pertament* — HTR is correct. Standard chancery formula: *deuriets promptament obeir* (you should promptly obey).

9. *afectuós servidor vs. my garbled afectuosissidor* — HTR is correct; the phrase is *bon official e afectuós servidor del senyor rey* (good official and affectionate servant of the lord king).

10. *en continent realment e de fet vs. my en gint realment e de fet* — HTR is correct. *En continent* (immediately/forthwith) is the standard chancery formula.

11. *desus dites vs. my desus dits* — HTR is grammatically preferable; the feminine *dites* agrees with *viles*.

12. *de les vendes e drets vs. my ales resude e drets* — HTR *de les vendes e drets* (of the revenues and rights) is clearly correct.

13. *Barçalona vs. my Barchinona* — For a Catalan-language document, the vernacular form *Barçalona* is expected. HTR is preferred.

(b) Where my initial reading is preferred

1. *Francesch ça Garriga vs. HTR Francesch de Garriga* — The family name is *ça Garriga*, well attested. The HTR likely misread the *ça* ligature as *de*. Preferred: **ça Garriga**.

2. *pertanyen* vs. HTR *p[er]mtyen* — My reading *pertanyen* (pertain/belong) is grammatically correct; the HTR's *permtyn* is a garble. The clause reads: "que havem tramès per reebrels en nom nostre aquí pertanyen per certes rahons e títols" — "whom we have sent to receive them in our name, [to whom they] pertain by certain reasons and titles."

3. *principal càrrech* vs. HTR *donapal càrrech* — My reading *principal* is clearly correct; *donapal* is not a word. The phrase is *daquells pendre principal càrrech* — "to take principal charge of those [matters]."

4. *propers fets seus* vs. HTR *propers fors seus* — *Fets* (deeds/affairs) is preferable to *fors* (fueros/privileges) in this context: the queen is saying the governor should obey "especially in the [king's] own affairs."

5. *per esser vra reyna e senyora* vs. HTR *per esser nostra reyna e senyora* — Here the pronoun matters. The queen is saying "since [I am] *your* queen and lady" — addressing the governor — so *vostra* (abbreviated *vra*) is correct. The HTR's *nostra* is a misread.

6. *Sanxo Martínez de Biota* vs. HTR *Simyo Martínez de Biota* — *Sanxo* is the known historical name. HTR misread the initial letter group.

7. *no solament* vs. HTR *no volament* — The standard construction *no solament... mas encara* (not only... but also) is clearly correct.

8. *pregam volem e manam* vs. HTR *per dita nostra volem e manam* — My reading preserves the standard triple formula *pregam, volem e manam* (we pray, wish, and command), which is well attested in Violant's correspondence. The HTR garbled *pregam* into *per dita nostra*.

(c) Where both readings remain uncertain

1. The place name(s): *de Berga e d'Aragallo* vs. *de Magallo* — Neither is fully satisfactory. The HTR's "Berga" is problematic given the Aragonese context, but the manuscript does seem to contain more text than a single place name. Could the text read "de baronia de Magalló" or "de lochs de Magalló"? Or are there genuinely two places? I'd flag this for further consultation with the original folio. For now I tentatively read **de lochs [?] de Magalló [?]**, but this is low confidence.

2. The opening clause structure: *ab axi en favor deu [?] de tan gran desseruey prejudici [?] e dampnatge nostre* — Both readings stumble here. The general sense is clear (the queen is moved "not without reason" by the great disservice and damage), but the exact

words between *moguda* and *desservey* remain uncertain. The HTR's *ab axi en fauor deu* doesn't parse cleanly. Possibly: *com axi en favor de [?] de tan gran desservey, perjudici e dampnatge nostre havets dilatat...*

3. e corney/cornen en menys preu dels manaments — Neither version is satisfactory. The sense requires something like "and [you] hold in contempt the commands of the lord king." The verb could be *convé* (it is fitting), *torneu* (you turn), or *veniu* (you come). The HTR's *corney* and my *cornen* are both uncertain. I tentatively read **convé [?] en menys preu**.

4. The clause *per que repneu/vepnet nostre en fortment* — Both readings are garbled. The sense should be: "therefore we reprehend you strongly" or "we urge you strongly." Possibly *per que reprenem vos en fortment* (therefore we reprehend you strongly). The HTR's *vepnet* and my *repnes* are both attempts at a form of *reprendre*.

5. semblants actes vs. semblants d'esforç — My *actes* and the HTR's *d'esforç* are both plausible. *Actes* (acts) is more neutral; *desforç* (acts of dispossession/defiance) would be more pointed. The manuscript letterforms are ambiguous.

6. The dating clause: *sots nostre segell secret a nostru mat* — The phrase after *segell secret* is unclear. My reading *manumat* is uncertain; the HTR has *a nostru mat*. This may be *manut* or a reference to *manu nostra* (by our hand), or possibly *manat* (commanded).

7. The chancery note (f. 91r, right margin): The HTR reads *Dominus Rex misit eam sig[nata] per expet... P.* — but since this is the queen's letter, *Dominus Rex* is unexpected. Possibly *Domina Regina* abbreviated, or perhaps the king did authorize its dispatch. My initial reading was too garbled to be useful. The final *P.* likely identifies the expediting scribe.

8. *La Reyna* vs. my *Vi. deponir [?]* — The HTR's *La Reyna* as the authorization signature makes good sense for a Catalan royal letter. However, looking at the manuscript, what I see could also be a Roman numeral or abbreviation. *La Reyna* is the more plausible reading contextually.

(d) Reconciled Transcription

[f. 90v]

Governador molt som marvellats [?] e no sens raho moguda ab [?] axi en favor deu [?] de tan gran desservey perjudici [?] e dampnatge nostre havets dilatat e dilatats liurar de poders nostres [?] lo castell e viles de lochs [?] de Magalló [?] a mossèn Francesch çà

Garriga que havem tramès per reebrels en nom nostre aquí pertanyen per certes rahons e títols hoc e en lo dit en de Canalias [?] certes quantitats de moneda que havets reebudes e per en per dita via [?] de les rendes emoluments e drets dels dits castell e viles pertenen [?] a vós de nostres maneres e rahons exquisides e colorades e no havets fundament algú en justícia ni en raó e per ço seguint ço que deuets e l'onestat de vostre offici e convé [?] en menys preu dels manaments del senyor rey e nostres sobre açò a vós fets als quals deuriets promptament obeir majorment en los propers fets seus e mes e daquells pendre principal càrrech. E si saviament entenets que per esser vra reyna e senyora no deuriets en vós o en mes fets usar de semblants actes [?] mas anar dret camí e mostrar vos hi bon official e affectuós servidor del senyor rey e nostre per que reprenem [?] vos en fortment de no solament ne siats digne de reprehensió mas encara d'aspra e greu correcció vos pregam volem e manam que totes dilacions foragitades liurets en continent realment e de fet al dit mossèn Francesch ça Garriga en nom nostre lo dit castell e viles desus dites e al dit en de Canalias tots los béns que haurets trobats en aquells e tot ço que reebut haurets e sia vers vós de les vendes e drets daquells. E açò no mudets ne

[f. 91r]

tardets per neguna rahó car certificam vós que pendrets [?] massa gran càrrech per a nós e conexerets [?] ço en smerets [?] per obra. Dat en Barçalona sots nostre segell secret manat [?] a xj dies de Març del any Mil ccc lxxxvij. La Reyna [?].

Al amat nostre mossèn Sanxo Martínez de Biota conseller del senyor rey e portantveus de governador en lo regne d'Aragó.

[Right margin notation:] Domina [?] Regina [?] misit eam sig[*natam*] expedit. P.

Summary of principal remaining difficulties

The toughest stretch runs from *moguda* through *dampnatge nostre* at the opening, where neither source gives a clean reading. The place name(s) after *viles de* also need verification against the original — whether this is Magalló alone or two places. The middle section around *convé en menys preu* and *per que reprenem vos* remains syntactically difficult despite being clear enough in overall meaning. The chancery note is standard in form but the abbreviations resist confident expansion without the original.

Shall I proceed to Stage 3 translation, or would you like to offer corrections first?

The place names are Borja and Magallon. On f91r, after the date, the letters that I can make out are v(er?) deponte. I think that because the overall meaning is clear for all the trouble spots, we can proceed now to Stage 3.

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Verified place names and prepared Stage 3 translation document

Verified place names and prepared Stage 3 translation document

Good — those corrections are very helpful. Borja and Magallón are neighboring towns in Aragon, which makes perfect geographic and administrative sense for a letter to the governor of Aragon. And *de Ponte* is likely the notarial identifier. Let me produce the Stage 3 translation now.

Validated textual interpretations and authorized progression forward

Validated textual interpretations and authorized progression forward

Here's the completed Stage 3 deliverable. This is a fiery letter — Violant's tone is remarkably direct. The *maneres e rahons exquisides e colorades* line is especially sharp, essentially accusing Martínez de Biota of legal bad faith. Combined with the preceding document on the same affair, you have a clear picture of a governor actively resisting the queen's authority over Borja and Magallón in the early weeks of Joan I's reign.

The toughest unresolved spots are concentrated in that syntactically tangled opening clause and the verb governing *en menys preu*. If you get a chance to examine the original folio for those passages, the rest of the document should be quite solid.

Violant to governor borja magallon 1387 03 11

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