

Claude Project, Opus 4.6

March 5, 2026

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

I have two letters in Catalan from 1387, written in fourteenth century Gothic Secretarial hand. Both letters are included the single image file attached here. Please do your best to transcribe these two letters.

4:38 AM

Wrestled with paleographic ambiguities while reconstructing medieval Catalan royal correspondence

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I've examined the image carefully. These are two companion letters from Queen Violant de Bar, both dated March 13, 1387, concerning embroiderers (*brodadors*) in Mallorca whom the queen wants brought to Barcelona for works she has commissioned. The first is directed to officials (likely the governor of Mallorca), ordering them to compel the craftsmen; the second is addressed directly to the embroiderers themselves, with threats of punishment for non-compliance.

Here are my best-effort transcriptions:

Letter 1 (to officials)

Com nos per obres necessaries a nos hayam e a gran me[ne]ster [?] en Nicholau Torret, Johan Fabrega fill den Bn. Fabrega e Ffranceses Clara [?], los quals son en Mallorques, pregam vos e manam expressament que en cas que per la letra nostra, la qual ab la present lus trametem, no puguen [?] de continent axils forçets ab tots remeys recullir e venir a nos. E vos donats lus spatxament e endreça en la partença en manera que en pus breu se posa sien a nos per fer lo puey [?] e obres als quals los haue necessaris. E en aço diligencia havets en sobrana en manera ques haia que grahir, certifican vos que la tarda dela lur venguda sia a nos molt desplaient e imputariem ho a vos e a ira [?] e negligencia e

no cura. Datum en Barch[in]a sots nostre segell secret acostumat a XIII dies de Març del any de la nativitat de nostre senyor Mil CCC LXXX set[e]. G[?]. de Ponte.

[Chancery subscription:] Domina regina mandavit. P. de Besanta [?].

Letter 2 (to the embroiderers)

La Reyna

Per tant com nos havem deliberat fer algunes obres en que nosaltres [?] los quals have ops de [?] fer sabres [?] e entene [?] varets bon recap [?] ens feurets [?] per ço aquells have ordenats [?] e volem per ço [?] facilment [?] manam vos que vista la present emanats [?] a nos per fer nos les dites obres. Certificant vos que nos per vostres treballs [?] vos fare[m] be satisfer. E si venir no cauets [?] o no volrets, justa[ment] de una [?] per altres remeys compellir [?] puxats [?], però encara volem nosaltres e d'a[l]tres [?] que per la [des]obediencia nos fariem punir en manera que a acoste [?] tals vos sia correccio e pena. Dat[um] sots nostre segell secret acostumat a XIII dies de Març del any Mil CCCLXXXVII [?]. De [?] Ponte.

[Address:] Als feels n[ost]res [?] Nicholau Torret, Joha[n] Fabrega e Ffrancesch Elma [?] brodadors dela Ciutat de Mallorques.

[Chancery subscription:] Domina regina mandavit. P. de Besanta [?].

Notes on Uncertain Readings

Letter 1:

1. **"e a gran me[ne]ster"** (l. 1): I'm reading the construction as *haver menester* (to need), with "e a gran [menester]" as an intensifying aside — "we need, and greatly need" — but the exact letterforms of the final word are not clean. Could also be *me[n]assient* or some other form I'm not resolving.
2. **"lo puey"** (l. 6): Genuinely uncertain. In context of embroiderers doing *obres*, this might refer to a specific type of textile work — *punt* (stitch)? *pali* (pallium/altar cloth)? — or it could be *servey* (service) with initial letters misread.
3. **"Ffranceses Clara"** (l. 2–3): This name doesn't match the address of Letter 2, which appears to read "Ffrancesch Elma." Either I'm misreading one of the two, or the scribe was inconsistent. The first letter's form looks like *ffranceses clara* to me, but I'm not confident in the surname.

4. **"e a ira e negligencia"** (l. 8): Uncertain. Could be *e a vostra negligencia* (and to your negligence), which makes better contextual sense — the queen would impute the delay to "you and your negligence and lack of care."
5. **"G. de Ponte"** and **"P. de Besanta"**: The scribe name after the dating formula and the name in the chancery subscription are both hard to read with certainty.

Letter 2:

This letter is considerably harder to read than the first. I have low confidence in several passages:

6. **"en que nosaltres los quals have ops de fer sabres e entene varets bon recap ens feurets"** (ll. 1–2): This is the most problematic passage. I believe the gist is that the queen states she needs craftsmen who are skilled in the relevant work, and she understands these particular embroiderers are competent — but the specific word forms are very uncertain. "Sabres" might be *obres*; "varets" might be *vosaltres* or *saurets*; "recap" is likely *recapte* (skill, competence); "feurets" is unclear.
7. **"facilment manam vos"** (l. 3): There's something before *manam* that I can't cleanly resolve. It may be an intensifier or just part of a longer formulaic phrase.
8. **"emanats a nos"** (l. 3): Possibly *e anats a nos* (and go to us), which would parallel the standard *vingats a nos* formula.
9. **"per vostres treballs vos farem be satisfer"** (l. 4): "Treballs" is my reading for what looks like "Aballs" or similar — the context demands *treballs* (labors) but the initial letters are uncertain.
10. **"no cauets"** (l. 4): Possibly *no hauets* (you cannot), or *no caurets*. The sense is "if you cannot or will not come."
11. **"Ffrancesch Elma"** in the address: See note 3 above regarding the discrepancy with Letter 1's "Ffranceses Clara."

Ok, here is the output from the other HTR for Stage 2: Letter 1 (Top) Com nos p[er] obres necc[ess]aries a nos haguem gra[n]t neccessitat de Nicholau Torret, Johan Fabrega fill d'en B[artome]u Fabrega e Francesch Clara, los quals son en Mallorga, p[er] que[m] vos emanam e v[ol]em e s[t]rictame[n]t q[ue] en cas q[ue] p[er] la l[let]ra n[ost]ra la qual ab la p[re]sent lus trametem no p[ir]jien de ve[n]inet aq[ue]lls forcets ab tot remey realise a venir en nos e nos donats lus p[er]atyamet e indreca en la p[er]sona en mana q[ue]on pus breu se pora sien auos p[er] fer les fuey e obres a les quals los hauem neccessaris. E en aço

diligen[t]ia haiats e ta[n]t p[ro]viamat en mana que p[er] huia q[ue] s'en haguia a trassar nos que la tarda d'a lurs venguda sia nos molt desplasent e imputaruem ho a uos a v[ost]re negligencia e no cura. Dat en Barcelona sots n[ost]re segell secret acostumat a XIII dies de Març l'any de la Nat[ivitat] de n[ost]re Senyor mil CCC LXXX set. Vidit Pontis. Letter 2 (Bottom) La Reyna P[er] tant co[m] nos hauem deliberat fer algunes obres en que vosaltres los quals hauem oyt d[ir] ser ffabres e entenē d'arts son receptes ens siurats segons aquelles hauem ordenades e volem que faciam. Manna[m] vos que vista la p[re]sent vingats a nos p[er] fer nos les dites obres certiffican[t] vos que nos d[e] v[ost]res treballs vos farem be sathsfer. E si p[er] venir no caurets o no volrets p[er] ffa[er] d[i]ta b[on]a p[er] altre remeys compieix puchiit p[er] en tura volem vosaltres ser certs que p[er] la inobediencia n[ost]ra fariem punyr en mana que tot aco se cap nos sia correccio e pena. Dat sots n[ost]re segell secret acostumat a XIII dies de Març l'any mil CCC LXXX set. Vidit Pontis. Al feel n[ost]re Nicholau Torret, Josa Fabrega e ffrancesch Clara brodadors de la Ciutat de Mallorca.

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4:45 AM

Systematically adjudicated manuscript divergences between initial transcription and HTR output

Systematically adjudicated manuscript divergences between initial transcription and HTR output

Stage 2: Reconciliation

I've gone back to the manuscript image to adjudicate each significant divergence. Here is the structured reconciliation.

A) Where the HTR corrects or improves the initial reading

1. **Opening clause (Letter 1):** The HTR's "haguem gra[n]t neccessitat de" is superior to my garbled "hayam e a gran me[ne]ster en." The construction *haver gran neccessitat de* + named individuals is clean and standard. I misread the run of minims in *neccessitat*.
2. **"aquells forcets" (L1):** Better than my "axils forçets." *Aquells* (those men) is the correct demonstrative pronoun and parses grammatically with *forcets*.
3. **"a vostra negligencia" (L1):** The HTR's reading resolves what I had as "a ira e negligencia." Looking at the manuscript, I can see *vostra* before *negligencia*. The full

phrase reads: "e imputariem ho a vos e a vostra negligencia e no cura" — "and we would impute it to you and to your negligence and lack of care."

4. **"vingats a nos" (L2):** Clearly correct over my "emanats a nos." *Vingats* is the standard imperative formula in these letters.
5. **Description of the craftsmen (L2):** The HTR's "vosaltres los quals hauem oyt dir ser ffabres e entenents d'arts" is substantially better than my reading. *Hauem oyt dir* ("we have heard it said") is a standard formula, and *ser ffabres e entenents d'arts* ("to be craftsmen and knowledgeable in arts") makes excellent sense in context. Note: I believe the manuscript reads *vosaltres* (you), not *nosaltres* as the HTR prints — grammatically, the queen is addressing the embroiderers.
6. **"ffrancesch Clara" in the address (L2):** The HTR confirms the third embroiderer's name as *Fffrancesch Clara*, matching Letter 1 and resolving my uncertainty about "Elma." Clara is clearly the surname.
7. **"Vidit Pontis" (both letters):** The HTR's reading of the validation mark as *Vidit* + name (a chancery visa, "seen by [reviewer]") is more plausible than my initial "G. de Ponte." Looking again at the letterforms, I can see enough strokes for *vidit* rather than a single initial. Standard chancery practice supports this.

B) Where the initial reading is preferred

1. **"pregam vos e manam expressament" (L1):** My reading is correct here. *Pregam vos e manam* ("we request and command you") is the standard chancery doublet. The HTR's "per quem vos emanam e volem e strictament" is garbled — *emanam* is not a Catalan verb form, and the HTR has misread the abbreviations.
2. **"spatxament e endreça en la partença" (L1):** Far better than the HTR's "peratyamet e indreca en la persona." *Spatxament* (dispatch/haste) and *endreça* (direction/assistance) are both standard, and *en la partença* (in the departure) makes contextual sense — the queen wants the officials to facilitate the embroiderers' departure from Mallorca. The HTR's "en la persona" is nonsensical here.
3. **"recullir e venir a nos" (L1):** *Recullir* (to embark, to gather oneself for departure — particularly apt for a sea crossing from Mallorca) is correct. The HTR's "realise" does not parse.

4. **"de continent" (L1):** Standard Catalan for "immediately." The HTR's "de veninet" is a misread.
5. **"certifican vos que la tarda" (L1):** My reading correctly identifies the *certifican vos* formula, which the HTR entirely misses, instead producing "que per huia que sen haguia a trassar nos que la tarda." The *certifican vos que* construction is formulaic in chancery mandates and clearly present in the manuscript.
6. **"nos fariem punir" (L2):** Correct over the HTR's "nostra fariem punyr." The queen says *nos fariem punir* ("we would cause [you] to be punished"), not *nostra* (which would nonsensically mean "our [disobedience] would cause punishment"). I do, however, accept the HTR's *inobediencia* over my *desobediencia* — looking at the manuscript, the prefix appears to be *ino-* rather than *des-*.
7. **"se pora sien a nos" (L1):** My reading and the HTR agree on the construction *que on pus breu se porà sien a nos* — "so that as soon as possible they may be with us." The HTR's *pora* is slightly better than my *posa* for the future form of *poder*.

C) Where both readings remain uncertain

1. **"lo puey / les fuey e obres" (L1):** Neither reading is satisfactory. The phrase should denote the type of work the embroiderers are needed for: "per fer lo/les [X] e obres a les quals los hauem necessaris." Candidates include *servey* (service), *punt* (stitch-work), *draps* (cloths), or possibly *joyels* (jewels/ornaments). The initial letters look most like *s* or *f + u/n + ey/iy*. I'll mark this **[X: unresolved]** in the reconciled transcription.
2. **"diligencia haiats e tant sobirana en manera que..." (L1):** I'm now fairly confident in *diligencia haiats* (subjunctive, as the HTR correctly reads) and *en sobirana manera* or similar intensifier. But the exact phrasing between *haiats* and *certifican vos* remains uncertain. I read something like "e tant sobirana en manera ques haia que grahir" — "and so supremely, in a manner for which there will be cause for gratitude." The HTR's "e tant proviamat en mana que per huia que sen haguia a trassar nos" is garbled. I'll give my best composite reading but flag the passage.
3. **"son receptes ens siurats segons aquelles hauem ordenades" (L2):** The HTR's middle section of Letter 2 remains partially opaque. *Son receptes* might be *son receptats* ("are received/accepted") or *son experts/reputats*. *Ens siurats* might be *ens servats* or *ens sirvats* ("and you serve us"). *Segons aquelles hauem*

ordenades ("according to those [works] we have ordered") parses, but I'm not confident in every word. This section needs further archival checking.

4. **The compulsion passage (L2):** "E si per venir no caurets o no volrets [per ffa... per] altres remeys compellir puxa[m], però encara volem vosaltres ser certs..." — the general sense is clear (if you can't or won't come, though we could compel you by other means, we still want you to know that for disobedience we would punish you), but the exact wording of the middle clause is uncertain in both readings. *Caurets* may be a form of *caure* or possibly *curar* (to bother/care).
5. **"que a acoste caps / que tot aco se cap" (L2):** The punishment formula at the end. The sense should be "that this may be to you correction and punishment" (*que açò vos sia correcció e pena*). Neither my reading nor the HTR's is clean. I'll give a best-guess composite.
6. **"Josa Fabrega" (L2 address):** The HTR reads *Josa* where the expected name (from Letter 1) is *Johan*. Looking at the manuscript address, I believe this is *Johan* — the descender of the *h* and the abbreviation mark could easily confuse HTR. But I can't fully exclude *Josa* as a variant name form.

D) Reconciled Transcription

Letter 1

Com nos per obres necessaries a nos haguem grant necessitat de Nicholau Torret, Johan Fabrega fill d'en B[er]n[at] [?] Fabrega e Ffrancesch Clara, los quals son en Mallorques, pregam vos e manam expressament que en cas que per la letra nostra, la qual ab la present lus trametem, no puguen de continent, aquells forçets ab tots remeys recullir e venir a nos. E vos [?] donats lus spatxament e endreça en la partença en manera que on pus breu se porà sien a nos per fer lo [X: unresolved] [?] e obres a les quals los hauem necessaris. E en açò diligencia haiats e tant sobirana en manera ques haia que grahir [?], certifican vos que la tarda de la lur venguda sia a nos molt desplaent e imputariem ho a vos e a vostra negligencia e no cura. Dat[um] en Barch[ino]na sots nostre segell secret acostumat a XIII dies de Març l'any de la Nativitat de nostre Senyor Mil CCC LXXX set. Vedit Pont[is] [?].

[Chancery subscription:] Domina regina mandavit. P. de Besanta [?].

Letter 2

La Reyna

Per tant com nos hauem deliberat fer algunes obres en que vosaltres, los quals hauem oyt dir ser ffabres e entenents d'arts, son receptes [?] ens siurats [?] segons aquelles hauem ordenades e volem que façiam [?]. Manam vos que vista la present vingats a nos per fer nos les dites obres, certificant vos que nos de vostres treballs vos farem be satisfer. E si per venir no caurets o no volrets, jatsia [?] que per altres remeys compellir puxa[m] [?], però encara volem vosaltres ser certs que per la inobediencia nos fariem punir en manera que a acoste cas [?] vos sia correcció e pena. Dat[um] sots nostre segell secret acostumat a XIII dies de Març l'any Mil CCC LXXX set. Vidit Pont[is] [?].

[Address:] Als feels nostres Nicholau Torret, Johan [?] Fabrega e Ffrancesch Clara, brodadors de la Ciutat de Mallorques.

[Chancery subscription:] Domina regina mandavit. P. de Besanta [?].

Summary of Confidence Levels

High confidence: The overall structure, most formulaic passages, the date, names (Nicholau Torret, Johan Fabrega, Ffrancesch Clara), the *brodadors de la Ciutat de Mallorques* address, the command to come to Barcelona, and the threat/incentive structure of Letter 2.

Medium confidence: The *diligencia haiats... certifican vos* passage in Letter 1; the *son receptes ens siurats* phrase in Letter 2; the compulsion clause in Letter 2; "B[er]n[at]" as the expansion of the father's name (the HTR suggested *Bartomeu* — either is possible; the manuscript abbreviation is ambiguous).

Low confidence: The unresolved [X] word in "per fer lo [X] e obres"; the exact wording of the punishment formula; *caurets*; the scribe identification "P. de Besanta."

Ready for your corrections before Stage 3, or shall I proceed directly?

You did great. Yes, the name is Johan Fabrega in the address line for Letter 2. The low confidence item you have reported is "per lo fer lo servey e obres." Also, as you work on Stage 3, please be aware that in medieval Catalan the word "lus" could be used for the pronoun "llur" for English "them" or the adjective their. Please now proceed to Stage 3.

4:54 AM

Consolidated textual confirmations and prepared scholarly manuscript production

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Thank you for those corrections — *servey* is exactly right, and the note on *lus* is very helpful for the translation. Let me produce the Stage 3 deliverable now.

Acknowledged file submission and prepared for next stage

Acknowledged file submission and prepared for next stage

Here's the Stage 3 deliverable. A couple of things worth flagging beyond what's in the file:

The paired letter structure is a nice find — the queen sends the summons directly to the embroiderers (Letter 2) but hedges by simultaneously empowering local officials to compel them (Letter 1). The dating just weeks into the new reign is striking for what it suggests about Violant's immediate investment in material culture and household establishment.

On footnote 5, I noted the early-reign dating but kept the contextual comment brief. If you want me to expand on the patronage implications or cross-reference with other textile commissions from this period in your corpus, happy to do so. Similarly, the *brodadors de la Ciutat de Mallorca* designation could be worth a note on Mallorcan textile guilds if that connects to your broader argument about cultural networks.

Aca violant letters brodadors mallorca 1387 03 13

Document · MD

Want to be notified when Claude responds?

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