

Gemini Version 3

March 5, 2026

Conversation with Gemini

You said

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.

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Gemini said

This is a fascinating pair of administrative letters from the late 14th century, specifically dated March 1387. They are written in **Catalan** using a **Gothic Secretarial** script (also known as *mercantilesca* or *cancelleresca* in various regional forms), which was the standard for bureaucratic and legal documents of the Crown of Aragon during this period.

The letters concern the recruitment of skilled artisans—specifically embroiderers (*brodadors*)—from Mallorca to work on royal projects.

Document Transcription

Note: The transcription preserves the original medieval spelling and abbreviations where possible.

Letter 1 (Top)

Context: A formal request/order addressed to royal officials or local authorities regarding the summons of specific workers.

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]ien 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)

Context: This is the direct command from the Queen ("La Reyna") to the artisans themselves.

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 ino- bediencia 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.

Key Takeaways

- **The Artisans:** The letters name **Nicholau Torret, Johan (or Josa) Fabrega,** and **Francesch Clara.** While the second letter calls them *brodadors* (embroiderers), the body of the text refers to them generally as practitioners of "arts."
- **The Tone:** The Queen's letter is a mix of "carrot and stick." She promises they will be "well satisfied" (*be sathsfer*) for their labor but warns that disobedience (*inobediencia*) will be punished (*punyr*).
- **Location & Date:** Both were issued in **Barcelona** on **March 13, 1387.** This places the documents shortly after the death of Peter IV of Aragon (January 1387) and during the early reign of John I. The "Queen" mentioned is likely **Yolande of Bar,** known for her patronage of the arts and luxury.

Would you like me to translate these into modern English or provide more detail on specific paleographic abbreviations used in the text?

Gemini is AI and can make mistakes.

