

ACA, Violant de Bar: Credence Letter to Financial Officials re Jaume Estiua and Antoni Rosar

Document Summary

A credence letter (*lletra de credença*) issued by Queen Violant de Bar from Barcelona on 17 [?] March 1387, addressed to unnamed financial or administrative officials. The queen instructs the recipients to give full faith and credence to what her procurador general in the kingdom of Aragon, mossèn Jaume Estiua, and Antoni Rosar of the royal treasury will tell them regarding certain matters (*fets*) touching the revenues of the queen's chamber (*cambra*). The letter employs the standard tripartite formula of request, will, and command (*preguam, volem e manam*) and was issued under the queen's secret seal (*segell secret*). A Latin subscription records that four additional letters were produced under the same date and mandate. The scribal validation note identifies Bartholomeus Sirvent as the issuing officer, acting by mandate of the queen, with the letter passing through the regent of the queen's treasury.

Source: ACA, Registre de Violant de Bar [register number to be confirmed].

Language: Catalan (main text); Latin (subscription and scribal notation).

Date: 17 [?] March 1387.

Place of issue: Barcelona.

Scribe/issuing officer: Bartholomeus Sirvent.

Reviewer: V. de Ponte.

Reconciled Transcription

[Header]

La Reyna

[Main text — Catalan]

Nos havem comanada credença al amat e feel nostre mossèn Jaume Estiua procurador general nostre en aquest regne e a n'Antoni Rosar [?] de la nostra tresoreria, sobre alguns fets tocants los emoluments de nostra cambra. Per que us preguam, volem e manam qu'en ço que los dits mossèn Jaume e Antoni o l'un d'ells vos diran sobre aquests fets, doneus plena fe e creença axí com si nos personalment vos ho dehiem, e allò per esguart nostre complireu per obra, car en açò nos en farets que grat hajam. Dada en Barchelona sota nostre segell secret a xvij [?] dies de Març del any MCCC lxxxvij. V. de Ponte.

[Latin subscription — bottom left]

Item alie iij littere fuerunt facte sub eisdem datis signo et mandato et tradite sine superscriptionibus.

Idem.

[Scribal/notarial validation — right side]

Bartholomeo Sirvent mandavit domine Regina fuit per Regenter [?] Treseroria [?] eiusdem es [?] fuit tradite in hac fora [?].

Annotated English Translation

[Header]

The Queen.

[Main text]

We have entrusted credence¹ to our beloved and faithful mossèn Jaume Estiua,² our procurador general³ in this kingdom, and to n'Antoni Rosar⁴ of our treasury, concerning certain matters touching the revenues of our chamber.⁵ Wherefore we request, will, and command you⁶ that in whatever the said mossèn Jaume and Antoni, or one of them,⁷ shall tell you concerning these matters, you give them full faith and credence just as if we told you so in person, and that you carry out the same for our sake in deed, for in this you will do us a thing for which we shall be grateful.⁸ Given in Barcelona under our secret seal⁹ on the 17th [?] day of March in the year 1387. Seen by de Ponte.¹⁰

[Latin subscription]

Likewise, four other letters were made under the same dates, mark, and mandate, and delivered without superscriptions.¹¹

The same [scribe].

[Scribal validation]

Bartholomeus Sirvent¹² issued [this] by mandate of the lady Queen. It was [processed] through the Regent of the Treasury¹³ of the same [queen], and was delivered in this form [?].¹⁴

Footnotes

1. *Credença*: A credence letter (*lletra de credença*) authorized named envoys to speak on behalf of the issuer, instructing recipients to treat the envoys' oral statements as though they came directly from the queen herself. The envoys carried the letter as their warrant; the substantive instructions were delivered verbally, not in writing.
2. **Jaume Estiua**: Identified here as the queen's procurador general in the kingdom of Aragon. The surname *Estiua* (from Catalan *estiu*, "summer") may also appear in other documents as *Estiva*. Further prosopographical identification remains to be confirmed.
3. *Procurador general*: The queen's general procurator in the kingdom of Aragon, responsible for administering and defending her patrimonial rights and revenues within that kingdom. This is distinct

from the king's own procurador general.

4. **Antoni Rosar**: An official of the queen's treasury (*tresoreria*). The surname reading remains slightly uncertain — the final letter could be *-r* or *-s* (*Rosàs*).
 5. *Emoluments de nostra cambra*: The revenues pertaining to the queen's chamber, i.e. the income streams assigned to support the queen's household and personal expenditure, as distinct from the king's general treasury.
 6. *Per que us preguam, volem e manam*: The standard triple formula combining request (*preguam*), will (*volem*), and command (*manam*). In a credence letter, this escalating sequence expresses both courtesy and royal authority: the queen asks, wills, and orders compliance. The addressees are not named in the surviving text, which suggests either that the letter was a general credential presented by the envoys to whomever they needed to deal with, or that a superscription naming the recipients has been lost or was on a separate cover.
 7. *O l'un d'ells*: "Or one of them" — a standard clause in credence letters allowing either envoy to act independently if necessary.
 8. *Car en açò nos en farets que grat hajam*: A formulaic closing meaning approximately "for in this you will do us [a service] for which we shall have gratitude." This is a conventional expression of royal thanks framed as an expectation of compliance.
 9. *Sota nostre segell secret*: "Under our secret seal" — the queen's privy seal, used for personal or confidential correspondence as opposed to the great seal (*segell major*) used for solemn public instruments.
 10. **V. de Ponte**: The *vidit* ("seen by") notation of a chancery official who reviewed the letter before dispatch. This individual likely served as a protonotary or senior scribe in the queen's chancery.
 11. *Sine superscriptionibus*: "Without superscriptions," i.e. without the address or destination written on the outside of the letter. This may indicate that the four additional letters were delivered as open credentials, or that their superscriptions were added separately and are not recorded in the register.
 12. **Bartholomeus Sirvent**: The chancery official responsible for issuing the letter by the queen's mandate.
 13. *Regenter Tresoreria*: "Regent of the Treasury" — the acting head of the queen's treasury, who processed or approved the letter. The orthography *Regenter* for *Regentem* (or the Catalan-influenced form *Regent*) and *Tresoreria* for *Thesauraria* reflect the scribe's vernacular spelling habits within a Latin formula.
 14. *In hac fora*: This reading is uncertain. If correct, *fora* likely stands for *forma* ("in this form"), indicating that the letter was delivered in the present format. However, the reading remains provisional.
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Unresolved Ambiguities

1. **Date: xvij or xvj?** The numeral is compressed in the manuscript. The reconciled transcription follows the

HTR reading of *xvij* (17 March), but *xvj* (16 March) cannot be ruled out.

2. **Surname "Rosar"**: The final letter of Antoni's surname is unclear. *Rosar* and *Rosàs* both remain possible.
3. **"Regenter Treseroria"**: Jonathan's reading is adopted here. The form *Regenter* is unusual — it may reflect a vernacular-influenced spelling of *Regentem* or *Regent*, or it may be a misexpansion of a heavily abbreviated form. Higher-resolution imaging or parallel attestations would help confirm.
4. **"es fuit tradite in hac fora"**: Multiple uncertainties cluster here. *Es* may represent *et* (and); *fora* likely abbreviates *forma* but could conceivably be another word. The gender mismatch between *tradite* (feminine/plural?) and *littera* (feminine singular) may reflect scribal looseness or an underlying abbreviation that should be expanded differently.
5. **Addressees**: The letter does not name its recipients. This may be by design (a general credential) or an artifact of the register copy omitting a superscription that appeared on the original.
6. **"prouador" vs. "procurador"**: The HTR read *prouador* where the expected chancery title is *procurador general*. The reconciled transcription adopts *procurador* as the intended word, but the manuscript's surface form may differ.