

ACA, Joan I to the Governor of Roussillon and Cerdanya: Reception of the Infanta of Mallorca (17 March 1387)

Document Summary

A royal letter (*missiva*) from Joan I of Aragon to the governor of the counties of Roussillon and Cerdanya, ordering him to go to Salses to receive the king's "dear cousin," the Infanta of Mallorca, escort her to Barcelona, and provide for her retinue until she reaches the king. The governor is instructed to inform the Infanta that she must notify him of the day she intends to arrive at Salses, so that arrangements can be made without delay. He is further ordered to report back to the king with whatever response he receives concerning her arrival. The letter is dated 17 March 1387 from Barcelona and authenticated with the royal signet ring (*petit anell*). The chancery annotations identify the courier as Sa Garriga, the governor himself, and the secretary as P. de Beure.

Reconciled Transcription

Lo Rey

Governador. Axi com sabets nostra cara cosina la Infanta de Mallorques se deu venir a nos prestament, e hauem ordenat que vos la vats a rebre a Salses e que dalli la acompanyets entro aci. E vos preveats de sa companyia fins que ab nos sia. Per que ~~la~~ fets la saber queus tercifich [?] de jorn que volra esser a Salses, per tal que puxats avysar e no haja a tardar per vos. Et puix nos certificats de la resposta que haurets sobre de la venuda de la dita Infanta. Dada en Barchinona sots nostre segell [?] present a xvij dies de marc de l'any MCCCLXXXvij, sub signada ab nostre petit anell.

[Left:] Fuit missa [?] per Sa Garriga gubernatorem comitatum Rossilionis et Ceritanie.

[Right:] Dominus Rex mandavit mihi P. de Beure.

Annotated English Translation

The King

Governor.(1) As you know, our dear cousin the Infanta of Mallorca(2) is to come to us promptly,(3) and we have ordered that you go to receive her at Salses(4) and that from there you escort her here. And you are to provide for her retinue(5) until she is with us. Therefore, make her know that she should certify [?] you(6) of the day on which she will want to be at Salses, so that you can make arrangements and she not be delayed on your account. And then inform us(7) of the response you will have concerning the arrival of the said Infanta. Given in Barcelona under our seal, on the 17th day of March of the year 1387,(8) signed with our signet ring.(9)

[Left annotation:] It was sent(10) via Sa Garriga,(11) governor of the counties of Roussillon and Cerdanya.

[Right annotation:] The lord king commanded me, P. de Beure.(12)

Footnotes

1. The addressee is the governor (*gubernator*) of the counties of Roussillon and Cerdanya, as confirmed by the Latin annotation. The governorship of these two Pyrenean counties was a distinct office within the Crown of Aragon's administrative structure.
2. The identity of the "Infanta de Mallorques" requires further prosopographical investigation. The dispossessed Mallorcan royal line — descended from Jaume III of Mallorca (d. 1349) — maintained claims and connections to the Aragonese crown. Joan I's characterization of her as "nostra cara cosina" (our dear cousin) indicates a recognized kinship tie. A likely candidate is Esclaramunda (Isabel) of Mallorca, though firm identification would need to be confirmed against other chancery records and secondary literature.
3. *Prestament*: promptly, without delay. The word signals urgency in the king's instructions.
4. Salses (modern Salses-le-Château, Pyrénées-Orientales): a fortified site on the main road between Languedoc and Roussillon, and thus a natural meeting point for someone traveling south from French territory into lands of the Crown of Aragon.
5. *Companyia*: here in the sense of retinue or entourage, not merely "company." The governor is responsible for provisioning and accompanying the Infanta's household during the journey to Barcelona.
6. *Tercifich* [?]: the reading is uncertain. The form likely represents a variant of *certificar* (to certify, to inform), possibly a subjunctive *certifique/certifich* with an initial *c-/t-* graphic interchange or paleographic ambiguity. The sense is clear from context: the Infanta is to inform the governor of her intended arrival date.
7. *Certificats nos*: "certify us" / "inform us" — a standard chancery formula by which the king instructs a subordinate to report back.
8. 17 March 1387. Joan I had succeeded Pere III (the Ceremonious) on 5 January 1387; this letter dates from very early in his reign.
9. *Petit anell*: the small ring or signet ring, a personal seal used to authenticate royal correspondence of a less formal character than documents sealed with the great seal (*segell major*) or the privy seal (*segell secret*). The use of the signet ring is consistent with the document type — a direct administrative instruction to a royal official.
10. *Fuit missa* [?]: "it was sent." The alternative reading *fuit imposita* (it was dispatched/delivered) is also possible; both are standard chancery dispatch formulae.
11. Sa Garriga (Ça Garriga): identified in the annotation as the governor of Roussillon and Cerdanya, and apparently also the courier of the letter — which makes sense, since the letter was addressed to him and he would have carried it back to his jurisdictional seat to execute the king's orders.

12. P. de Beure: the royal secretary who wrote or registered the letter on the king's command. The *jussio* formula (*Dominus Rex mandavit mihi*) is standard for identifying the responsible chancery officer.
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Unresolved Ambiguities

1. "**Tercifich**" [?] — The precise reading of this word remains uncertain. The context strongly suggests a form of *certificar*, but the initial letterforms could be read as *ter-* or *cer-*, and the ending is compressed. The functional meaning (that the Infanta should inform the governor of her arrival day) is not in doubt.
2. "**Fuit missa**" vs. "**fuit imposita**" — The Latin dispatch formula in the left annotation is difficult to read with certainty. Both readings are diplomatically plausible.
3. "**Sots nostre segell** [?] **present**" — The exact wording of the sealing clause between "sots nostre" and "present" remains partially uncertain. The reading "segell" is inferred from formulaic parallels but is not fully confirmed from the letterforms.
4. **Identity of the Infanta of Mallorca** — The document does not provide the Infanta's given name. Identification depends on cross-referencing with other documents from the same register and secondary literature on the Mallorcan royal line in the late 1380s.
5. "**Axi com sabets**" — Proposed as the opening formula in reconciliation; paleographically plausible but not fully certain. The HTR's "Aqui es sabut" was rejected on formulaic grounds.