

Gemini Version 3

March 7, 2026

Conversation with Gemini

You said

I have another letter in Catalan from 1387, written in fourteenth century Gothic Secretarial hand. The lines below the main letter are written in Latin. Please do your best to transcribe.

Gemini said

This is a fascinating piece of 14th-century Mediterranean history. The document is a royal letter issued by the Chancery of the Crown of Aragon. Given the date (1387), the "King" mentioned is **John I of Aragon** (known as "the Hunter"), who had just ascended the throne following the death of his father, Peter the Ceremonious, in January of that year.

The letter concerns the arrival of his "dear cousin," the **Infanta of Mallorca** (likely Isabel of Mallorca), and gives instructions to the Governor regarding her escort.

Transcription (Medieval Catalan)

Below is the transcription of the main body. I have expanded the standard scribal abbreviations in brackets [] for clarity.

Lo Rey

Gouernador. Aqui es sabut ma cara cosina l'infanta de mallorques deu venir a nos p[er] p[ro]metre e hauem ordonat q[ue] vos la vats a rebre a Salses e q[ue] d'alli la acompanyets entro açi e vos p[re]veats de sa companyia fins q[ue] ab nos sia p[er] que de fet la sabreu q[ue] dimecres de jorn q[ue] voldra esser a Salses p[er] tal q[ue] p[uo]uats ajudar e no haja atardar p[er] vos Et puix nos [certificats] de la resposta q[ue] hauerts sobre de la ven[uda] de la dita infanta. Dada en Barchinona sots n[ost]re paruit segell p[rese]nt a xvij dies de març de l'any . m .ccc.lxxxvij . subscripta ab n[ost]re petit [segell]

Transcription (Latin Administrative Notes)

At the bottom, there are notes from the royal secretaries/officials:

- **Left Side:** *fuit imp[er]atoris p[er] Sa Garriga gubernatorem comitatum Rossilionis et Ceritanie. (It was dispatched by Sa Garriga, Governor of the counties of Roussillon and Cerdanya.)*
 - **Right Side:** *D[omi]nus Rex ma[n]davit m[er]ito p[er] d beure. (The Lord King commanded me, Pere de Beure [the secretary].)*
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Translation into Modern English

The King

Governor: It is known here [that] my dear cousin the Infanta of Mallorca is to come to us to make a promise, and we have ordered that you go to receive her at Salses, and that from there you accompany her until [she reaches] here. And you are to provide for her company until she is with us, because in fact you will know that on Wednesday at daybreak she wishes to be at Salses, so that you may be able to help and there should be no delay on your part. And then [inform] us of the response you have regarding the arrival of the said Infanta. Given in Barcelona under our small seal, on the 17th day of March in the year 1387. Signed with our small [seal].

Contextual Notes

- **The Geography:** The King is in **Barcelona**, and the Infanta is entering the kingdom through **Salses** (a vital frontier fortress in Roussillon, now in modern-day France). The Governor addressed is the official in charge of the northern counties.
- **The Hand:** This is a classic **Gothic Secretarial** hand. Note the "long s" (looks like an 'f' without the crossbar) and the heavily looped 'v' and 'b'. The use of the "tironian et" (which looks like a '7' or a 'z') for the word "and" (e) is also present.
- **The Infanta:** Isabel of Mallorca was the titular Queen of Mallorca, but by 1387, the Kingdom of Mallorca had long been re-annexed by the Crown of Aragon. Her "promise" likely refers to a formal oath of fealty or a diplomatic agreement with the new King, John I.

Would you like me to analyze the specific scribal abbreviations used in the Latin signatures at the bottom, or perhaps help with another document from this period?

Gemini is AI and can make mistakes.

