

ACA, Violant de Bar: Compulsion Order re Ferriol Forner of Sant Martí Sarroca

Document Summary

Royal compulsion order (*manament*) issued by Queen Violant de Bar to the *batlle* of Sant Martí de ça Rocha (modern Sant Martí Sarroca) or his lieutenant, commanding that Ferriol Forner, a furnace-keeper/baker of the said town, be seized by corporal and other forceful means and compelled to appear personally before the queen within one day of the letter's presentation. The penalty for non-compliance is 500 florins. Issued at Barcelona, 18 March 1387. Drafted by the scribe Andreas Granell by mandate of the queen, with a visa by Deponte and a notation referencing the Treasurer.

Reconciled Transcription

Yolant per la gracia de Deu Reyna Darago, de Valencia, de Mallorques, de Cerdanya e de Corsega, e Comtessa de Barchinona, de Rossello e de Cerdanya. Al feel nostre lo Batle de Sant Martí de ça Rocha o a son loctinent. Salut e gracia. Com nos per certes rahons vullam molt e haiam gran necessari en Ferriol Forner del dit loch. A vos dehim e manam expressament e de certa escrita sots pena de D florins que en continent ffacets ab forces maneres corporals e preniats lo dit Ferriol que dins .i. jorn apres que la present vos serva presentada continuament seguint sie personalment deuant nos. E aço per res no mudets si vls exalçar la dita pena nostra gracia e merçe volents cobrar e conservar. Data en Barchinona a XVIII dies de març del any de la Nativitat de nostre Senyor Mil CCC lxxx set. Vidit Deponte.

[*Latin subscript, different hand:*] Andreas Granell mandato domine Regine ff. no. rto. Thesaurarii [?]

Annotated English Translation

Violant, by the grace of God Queen of Aragon, of Valencia, of Mallorca, of Sardinia and of Corsica, and Countess of Barcelona, of Roussillon and of Cerdanya.¹ To our faithful the *batlle* of Sant Martí de ça Rocha² or to his lieutenant. Health and grace.

Since we, for certain reasons, very much wish and have great need of Ferriol Forner³ of the said place: to you we say and command expressly and with full knowledge,⁴ under penalty of five hundred florins,⁵ that you immediately make by forceful corporal means and seize the said Ferriol so that within one day after the present letter shall have been presented to you, following continuously,⁶ he shall be personally before us. And this you shall in no way alter, if you wish to avoid the said penalty and desire to recover and preserve our grace and mercy.

Given in Barcelona on the eighteenth day of March of the year of the Nativity of our Lord one thousand three hundred and eighty-seven.⁷ Vidit Deponte.⁸

Footnotes

Unresolved Ambiguities

1. "**e de certa scritta**": Almost certainly corresponds to the formula *de certa sciència*, but the manuscript reading as reported is *scrita*. Whether this is a scribal error, an unusual abbreviation, or a genuine variant spelling remains open.
2. "**ff. no. rto. Thesaurarii**": The Latin subscript abbreviations beyond *mandato domine Regine* are not fully resolved. The reference to the Treasurer is clear, but the preceding abbreviations require further comparanda from other documents in the same register.
3. "**vls exalçar**": The reading *vls* is likely an abbreviation for *volets* or *voleu* ("you wish"). The word *exalçar* in context means "to avoid" or "to be free of" (the penalty), though its literal sense is "to raise/exalt." The pairing *si volets exalçar la dita pena* is formulaic but the exact sense — "if you wish to escape the said penalty" — relies on a somewhat unusual usage of *exalçar* that may warrant checking against parallel compulsion orders in the same register.
1. Standard intitulation of Violant de Bar as queen consort. The full territorial enumeration mirrors Joan I's own titulature. ↩
2. Sant Martí de ça Rocha, modern Sant Martí Sarroca, a town in the Alt Penedès comarca of southwestern Catalonia. The manuscript suffered paper damage in this passage, complicating the reading. ↩
3. *Forner*: a furnace-keeper or baker. The document does not specify why Violant requires Ferriol's personal appearance, stating only *per certes rahons* ("for certain reasons"). The severity of the penalty (500 florins) and the demand for corporal compulsion suggest this was not a routine summons. ↩
4. The transcription reads *e de certa scritta*, which is likely a scribal rendering or abbreviation of *de certa sciència*, the standard chancery formula asserting that the monarch acts with deliberate, informed authority rather than inadvertently. The formula typically renders in Catalan as *de certa sciència* or *de nostra certa sciència*. ↩
5. D florins = 500 Aragonese gold florins, a very substantial sum. The florin (*florí d'or d'Aragó*) was the principal gold denomination of the Crown of Aragon, modeled on the Florentine florin and valued at 11 sous of Barcelona. ↩
6. *Continuament seguint*: "following continuously," i.e., without delay or interruption. The phrase reinforces the urgency of the one-day deadline — Ferriol is to proceed immediately and without stopping once the letter has been served. ↩

7. 18 March 1387. This falls in the first year of Joan I's reign (accession 5 January 1387) and early in Violant's exercise of queenly authority. ↵
8. *Vidit Deponte*: a chancery visa indicating the document was reviewed by an official named Deponte before dispatch. The *vidit* ("he/she saw [it]") formula is standard for indicating supervisory review in the Aragonese chancery. ↵
9. Andreas Granell (Andreu Granell), chancery scribe. The formula *mandato domine Regine* confirms this letter was issued on the queen's own authority, not the king's. ↵
10. The remaining abbreviations in the Latin subscript (*ff. no. rto. Thesaurarii*) likely constitute a registration or routing notation indicating the document was recorded in or passed through the office of the Treasurer (*Thesaurarii*). The exact expansion of *ff. no. rto.* remains uncertain. ↵