

## Claude Project, Opus 4.6

March 7, 2026

[Fourteenth Century ACA Transcriptions and Translations/](#)

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.

6:05 AM

Identified historical Catalan manuscript with Latin notation

Identified historical Catalan manuscript with Latin notation

Here is my Stage 1 transcription:

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**Document type:** Royal compulsion order (manament) from Queen Violant de Bar to a local official, compelling the appearance of a furnace-keeper (forner) named Ferriol.

**Principal actors:** Queen Violant de Bar (issuer); unnamed local official (batlle or similar); Ferriol, forner (furnace-keeper/baker); referenced penalty of 500 florins.

**Date:** 18 December 1387, Barcelona.

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### Transcription

Violant 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 sent Astaçi [?] o apon lochtinent. Salut e gracia. Com nos per certes rahons voquets [?] nostra cort haia gran necessari en Ferriol forner del dit loch duos dehim [?] e mana expressament sots certa fara [?] sots pena de D florins que en lo primer [?] forçets ab forte manaments corporals e penials [?] lo dit Ferriol que dins .j. [?] Jorn apres dela present nos ha presentada con nuament [?] seguet sie personalment denat [?] nos. E aço per res no mudets si vls [?] evamo [?] ela dita pena nostra gracia e ira cobeiats esquar [?]. Dat en Barchinona a XVIII dies de desembre del any dela Nativitat de nostre senyor mil CCC lxxx set. Videponte [?] \

[Latin subscript, different hand:]

Andreas Granelli firmo c[ertificavi?] d[omi]na [?]  
ff ad vto [?] d[omi]n[a?] Thesau[raria?] [?]

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## Paleographic Notes

1. **"sent Astaçi"** — I read this as a toponym, possibly Sant Estaci or Sant Anastasi. The letter forms are compressed and the second element is difficult. The A is clear, followed by what looks like *staçi* with a cedilla. [?]
2. **"voquets"** — Possibly *vocats* or *toquants* ("touching/concerning"). The initial letter could be *t* rather than *v*; the minim strokes are ambiguous. If *toquants*, the sense is "for certain reasons touching our court." [?]
3. **"duos dehim"** — Very uncertain. Possibly *duos de him* or a garbled form. The context suggests this is part of a phrase describing what the court needs from Ferriol. Possibly *davos dehim* ("we say to you") or *duos deim* [?].
4. **"expressament sots certa fara sots pena"** — The word I've read as *fara* is uncertain; it could be *forma* or *fara* (a legal penalty term). The repetition of *sots* is unusual but not impossible — "under a certain [penalty/form], under penalty of 500 florins." [?]
5. **"con nuament"** — Likely *continuament* with a nasal bar abbreviation, i.e., "continuously" or "forthwith." [?]
6. **"denat"** — Likely *denaut* or *devant* ("before"), standard in Catalan chancery usage for compelling appearance before the sovereign.
7. **"Videponte"** — Scribal signature or *visa* mark. Possibly the name of the chancery official who reviewed the document (Vidaponte? Vidalponte?). [?]
8. **Latin subscript** — The hand is notably different and smaller. "Andreas Granelli" appears clear. The rest involves standard certification formulae but is quite compressed. The final word may be *Thesauraria* (referring to the Treasury).
9. **"D florins"** — 500 florins (D = Roman numeral). A substantial penalty, indicating this is a serious compulsion order.
10. **"forner"** — Baker or furnace-operator. The document compels Ferriol's physical appearance before the queen, with corporal and financial penalties for non-compliance.

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Several readings here are provisional — particularly the toponym, the *voquets/toquants* crux, and the *duos dehim* passage. Happy to move to Stage 2 whenever you have HTR output or your own corrections.

Here is the HTR output for Stage 2: Transcription [Catalan Text] 1. Yolant p[er] la gra[cia] d[e] deu reyna d'arago d[e] valencia d[e] mallorq[ue]s d[e] Cerdeña e d[e] Corçega 2. e Comtessa de barch[i]na de Rossello e de Cerdanya Al feel n[ost]re lo Batle de Sant marti 3. d'en Velsa o a son loctinent Salut e gracia . Com nos p[er] certes rahons vullam m[o]lt 4. que hiam gran necessari en Ferriol Forner q[ue] de n[ost]re loch diu d'Ahun e mana expressame[n]t 5. als certs sota pena de .L. florins q[ue] en continent ffacet ab forces maneres corpo- 6. ral e preniats lo dit Ferriol que dins .ij. jorns apres quant p[re]sent vos fia presentada con- 7. tinuament seguint sie personalment deuant nos . E aço p[er] res no mudets si vlls exalçar la 8. dita pena n[ost]ra gracia e merçe volents cobrar e conservar . Data en Barch[i]na a xviii dies de març 9. de l'any de la nat[ivitat] de n[ost]re Senyor . Mill .ccc . lxxx . set . Vi-comte. [Latin Footer] 1. Andr[eas] Granell m[andat]o d[omi]ne R[egine] 2. ff. no. rto. [?] Thesaur[arii]

Show more

6:09 AM

Reconciled initial transcription against HTR output via manuscript examination

Reconciled initial transcription against HTR output via manuscript examination

## Stage 2: Reconciliation

### (A) Where HTR corrects the initial reading

1. **"sent Astaçi" → "Sant marti / d'en Velsa"**: The HTR reads the toponym as *Sant Martí d'en Velsa*. Returning to the image, this is clearly superior — what I misread as a single compressed toponym is actually split across two lines. The place name *Sant Martí d'en Velsa* is a plausible identification, though I'd flag it as potentially *Sant Martí de Valls* or another variant. The HTR's reading accounts for letter forms I compressed into "sent Astaçi." **HTR preferred.**
2. **"voquets nostra cort" → "vullam molt"**: The HTR reads *vullam molt*, "we very much wish." Returning to the image, this makes far better syntactic sense — *Com nos per certes rahons vullam molt que hiam gran necessari en Ferriol...* ("Since we for certain reasons very much wish, [and] since we have great need of Ferriol..."). My *voquets* was a misreading of the *vullam* + line-break + *molt*. **HTR preferred.**

3. **"duos dehim e mana" → "diu d'Ahun e mana"**: The HTR reads *que de nostre loch diu d'Ahun*. This gives a toponym — Ferriol the forner "of our said place called Ahun [?]." Paleographically more plausible than my garbled *duos dehim*. However, the toponym *d'Ahun* itself remains uncertain — it could be a misreading. The structure "que de nostre loch" makes good chancery sense. **HTR preferred, toponym still [?]**.
4. **"sots certa fara sots pena" → "als certs sota pena"**: The HTR eliminates my phantom word *fara* and reads simply *als certs sota pena de .L. florins*. The *als certs* is itself uncertain, but the structure is cleaner. **HTR preferred, though "als certs" [?]**.
5. **"D florins" (500) → ".L. florins" (50)**: The HTR reads the Roman numeral as L (50), not D (500). Returning to the image, the letter form is ambiguous — but 50 florins is a far more proportionate penalty for compelling a forner's appearance than 500. **HTR preferred on contextual grounds, paleographically [?]**.
6. **"en lo primer forçets" → "en continent ffacet ab forces maneres"**: The HTR reads *en continent ffacets ab forces maneres corporals e preniats*, "immediately you shall make/compel by forceful means, corporal, and you shall seize..." This is syntactically coherent and formulaically sound. My reading was garbled here. The double-*f* in *ffacets* is characteristic of Catalan scribal practice. **HTR preferred.**
7. **"con nuament" → "continuament"**: As I suspected, this is *continuament seguint* — "following continuously," i.e., without interruption. **HTR confirms.**
8. **"denat" → "deuant"**: Standard *devant* ("before"), as I noted was likely. **HTR confirms.**
9. **"cobeiats esquar" → "cobrar e conservar"**: The HTR reads *volents cobrar e conservar* — "wishing to recover and preserve." Much better than my *cobeiats esquar*. **HTR preferred.**
10. **"Videponte" → "Vi-comte"**: The HTR reads this as *Vi-comte*, a scribal visa. Returning to the image, I can see how the letter forms support this — possibly a signature of the *vescomte* or an official named *Vicomte*. **HTR plausible, though still [?]**.
11. **Date: "desembre" → "març"**: This is significant. The HTR reads *març* (March), not *desembre* (December). Returning to the image, the word is compressed. The month is genuinely difficult — the letter count and forms could support either. **Both uncertain [?] — needs your eye.**

12. **Latin subscript: "Granelli firmo certificavi" → "Granell mandato domine Regine":**

The HTR reads *mandato domine Regine*, a standard chancery formula ("by mandate of the lady Queen"). This is formulaically far superior to my speculative *firmo certificavi*. **HTR preferred.**

13. **"Thesauraria" → "Thesaurarii":** Minor — genitive rather than nominative/ablative.

Either is possible in context. **HTR marginally preferred.**

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**(B) Where the initial reading is preferred**

1. **"quant present vos fia presentada":** The HTR's line 6 reads *quant present vos fia presentada*. Looking at the image, I read *que la present nos ha presentada* or similar — the *quant... vos fia* construction is syntactically odd. However, the standard formula would be something like *que dins .ij. jorns apres que la present vos sia presentada* ("within two days after the present [letter] shall have been presented to you"). Neither my initial reading nor the HTR is quite right here. **Both uncertain — see (C).**
  2. **".j. Jorn" → ".ij. jorns":** The HTR reads two days, I read one. Looking at the image, I see what could be either a single minim or two. This matters for the legal force of the order. **Uncertain [?].**
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**(C) Where both remain uncertain**

1. **The toponym after "Ferriol Forner que de nostre loch":** The HTR gives *diu d'Ahun*, which would name the place Ferriol comes from. The *diu* could be *dit* ("called"), which would be standard — *del dit loch d'Ahun*. The toponym *Ahun* itself is unconfirmed. [?]
2. **"als certs" (HTR line 5):** This phrase is awkward. Possibly *a les certes* or *als certs* as an adverbial phrase ("certainly"), or possibly a misreading of something like *e manam expressament sots certa [forma?] e sots pena de .L. florins*. [?]
3. **The month in the date:** *març* vs. *desembre* — see above. [?]
4. **"Vi-comte" / "Videponte":** The scribal visa mark at the end of the date. [?]
5. **The presentation clause (*que dins .ij. jorns apres...*):** The exact wording of the clause specifying when Ferriol must appear. Standard formula would be *apres que la present vos sia presentada*. [?]

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## (D) 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 d'en Velsa [?] o a son loctinent. Salut e gracia. Com nos per certes rahons vullam molt que hiam [?] gran necessari en Ferriol Forner que de nostre [?] loch dit [?] d'Ahun [?] e mana expressament als certs [?] sots pena de .L. [?] florins que en continent ffacets ab forces maneres corporals e preniats lo dit Ferriol que dins .ij. [?] jorns apres que la present vos sia [?] 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. Vi-comte [?] \

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

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## Confidence summary

**High confidence:** Intitulatio, salutatio, most of the dispositio (compulsion of Ferriol's appearance), closing formula, Andreas Granell attribution.

**Medium confidence:** Toponym *Sant Martí d'en Velsa*, penalty amount (.L. florins), *ffacets ab forces maneres corporals e preniats, continuament seguint, cobrar e conservar*.

**Low confidence / needs your eye:** Toponym *d'Ahun*, *als certs*, the presentation clause, the month (març vs. desembre), *Vi-comte*, *hiam* vs. *haiam*, the Latin subscript abbreviations beyond *mandato domine Regine*.

Ready for your corrections before Stage 3.

I will help you with the uncertainties. First, the Batle is de Sant Marti de ça Rocha, which in modern spelling is Sant Marti Sarroca, a town in southwestern Catalonia. There was damage to the paper that made this difficult for you. Second, the words following Ferriol Forner are "del dit loch. A vos dehim e manam..." Line 5 begins "e de certa escrita sots pena de D. florins." The correct month is març. The words after the year are "vidit deponte." The presentation clause reads "que dins .i. jorn apres que la present vos serva presentada conti-nuament..." Now that you have those responses to the uncertainties, please proceed to Stage 3.

6:24 AM

Discarded unnecessary tool, proceeded directly with markdown

Discarded unnecessary tool, proceeded directly with markdown

Now let me build the final Stage 3 markdown deliverable with the corrected transcription and annotated translation.

Acknowledged corrections and prepared to advance workflow

Acknowledged corrections and prepared to advance workflow

Here's the completed edition. A few things worth flagging:

The *certa scripta / certa sciència* question in footnote 4 is the most interesting unresolved point — if you're able to take another look at the abbreviation marks over that word, it would settle whether the scribe wrote a variant or whether one of us is misreading a suspension stroke.

The 500-florin penalty is notably steep for compelling a single *forner*. That plus the *de certa sciència* formula and the one-day deadline suggest Violant had a specific and pressing reason for needing this man, though the document is characteristically silent on what it was.

Aca violant compulsion ferriol forner sant marti sarroca 1387 03 18

Document · MD

Want to be notified when Claude responds?

[Claude is AI and can make mistakes. Please double-check responses.](#)