

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.

10:47 AM

Meticulously deciphered medieval manuscript paleography and historical context

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A few initial observations before the transcription: the main text is actually in **Castilian** (with marked Aragonese dialect features), not Catalan — Joan I writing to a fellow peninsular sovereign. The Latin apparatus appears only in the chancery notations below. The letter is a standard *bien estar* circular announcing the king's health and that of the royal family, dated Barcelona, March 21, 1387.

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### Stage 1: Initial Transcription

**Document type:** Royal *bien estar* letter (health bulletin) **Sender:** Joan I of Aragon **Addressee:** King of Navarre (Charles III) **Date:** 21 March 1387, Barcelona **Seal:** Secret seal (*siello secreto*)

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### Main text (Castilian/Aragonese):

Muy caro hermano, por que deseamos saber de vra salut e estar vro [?] buenas nuevas, rogamos vos affectuosament que nos ende grades [?] certificar amenudo, z pa cosa d(e) la q(ua)l hauremos muy grand plaz(er) z consolacion. E el n(uest)ro vos placia saber, muy caro hermano, q(ue), loado el nombre de Dios, somos deliberado z bien qu(i)tos [?] d(e)l accident [?] q(ue) biuyemos [?] en n(uest)ra p(er)sona; e otrosi n(uest)ra cara companyona la Reyna z el dalfin [?] n(uest)ro primogenito e las jnfantas n(uest)ras fillas, po(r) bien somos la m(er)c(e)d de Dios z en buena disposicion de s(us) p(er)sonas. E si algunas cosas, muy caro hermano, vos son plazientes destas p(ar)tes, embiad nos lo a dezir z

co(m)plir lo se/mos [?] de muy buena volu(n)tat. E sea Dios todos tiempos guarda vra.  
Dada en Barch(i)n(on)a dius n(uest)ro siello s(ecre)to a xxj dias de março del anyo M ccc  
lxxx vij.

### Latin chancery notations:

*Left:* Fuit missa Regi Navarre. Simil(is) f(ui)t fac(ta) p(ro) [?] Regine N(avarre) [?] sue [?].

*Right (iussio):* D(omi)n(u)s Rex m(andavi)t [...] P. de Beuiure [?]

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### Paleographic notes and uncertainties

1. **"estar vro [?]" (line 1):** The word(s) between "salut e" and "buenas nuevas" are difficult. I'm reading "estar vro" (= *estar vuestro*, your condition), which would fit the standard *bien estar* formula ("deseamos saber de vuestra salut e estar vuestro"), but the letter forms are cramped and ambiguous. Could also be "estado vro" or a single compressed word.
2. **"grades [?]" (line 2):** In context, the formula requires something like "nos ende fagades certificar" (= that you cause us to be certified thereof). What I'm reading as "grades" may be a misreading of "fagades" — in this hand, initial *f* can resemble *gr* — but I cannot confirm this paleographically.
3. **"qu(i)tos [?] d(e)l accident [?]" (line 5):** These are the hardest words in the letter. The reading "quitos del accident" (= free/clear of the ailment) makes excellent diplomatic sense — Joan I reporting recovery from an illness shortly after his accession. But the letter forms are ambiguous: what I'm reading as "quitos" could be "qumo" or another form; what I'm reading as "accident" involves treating compressed letter groups as abbreviations. The word I've tentatively read as "dl accident" appears as something like "dl am det" in the manuscript, which could represent "d(e)l accide(n)t" with heavy abbreviation.
4. **"biuyemos [?]" (line 5):** Likely "bivemos" (= *vivíamos*, we were living/experiencing) or possibly "haviemos" (= *habíamos*, we had). The *b/h* distinction and vowel sequence are uncertain. Either reading works: "the ailment we were experiencing/had in our person."
5. **"dalfin [?]" (line 6):** I read this as "dalfin" (= *delfín/dalfi*), i.e., a French-influenced title for the heir. In Gothic secretarial hand, long *s* and *f* are easily confused, so "dalsin" is also possible but makes less sense. If "dalfin" is correct, this is a notable usage — the French *dauphin* applied to Joan I's firstborn, presumably Prince Jaume

(b. 1382, d. 1388), who would have been about five years old. The term appears in apposition with "primogenito."

6. **"complir lo se/mos [?]" (lines 9–10):** The word straddling the line break is unclear. Expected forms would be "complir lo [h]emos" (= we will fulfill it) or "complir lo [fare]mos." What I'm reading as "se-" at the end of line 9 doesn't obviously resolve to any standard form, though "semos" as a dialectal variant of "somos" is attested in Aragonese.
7. **Bottom-right iussio:** The first line is clearly "Dominus Rex mandavit." The second line includes what appears to be "P. de Beuiure" — likely Pere de Beviure, a known chancery functionary. There may be an additional name or abbreviation preceding it that I cannot resolve.
8. **Bottom-left second line:** The similar-letter notation is hard to read. I tentatively have "Similis fuit facta pro Regine Navarre sue" (= A similar letter was made for his Queen of Navarre), but the abbreviations are uncertain, and "sue" at the end is puzzling.

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Ready for Stage 2 whenever you have an HTR output or corrections.

Here is the other HTR output for Stage 2: Paleographic Transcription (Abbreviations have been expanded in brackets [] for clarity.) Main Text: 1. Muy caro hermano por q[ue] deseamos saber de v[ost]ra salut e estamiento 2. buenas nuevas Rogamos vos afectuosament[e] q[ue] nos en d[e] grades avisar 3. amenudo e se a cosa d'la q[ua]l hauremos muy grand plaz[er] e consolacion De 4. n[ost]ro vos placia saber muy caro h[er]mano q[ue] loado el nombre de dios so 5. mos desliurado e byen quisto d'l [del] amort [malaltia/enfermedad] q[ue] duyemos en n[ost]ra p[er]sona e 6. otrossi n[ost]ra cara compayona la Reyna e el dalfín n[ost]ro p[r]imogenito e 7. las infantas n[ost]ras fillas p[er] bien somos la m[e]r[ce]d de dios e en buena 8. disposicion de sus p[er]sonas E si algunas cosas muy caro h[er]mano vos 9. son plazientes de estas p[er]tes embiad nos lo a dezir e complir lo he- 10. mos de muy buena voluntad E n[ost]ra dios todos tiempos guarda 11. v[ost]ra · Dada en Barch[elo]na diu[s] n[ost]ro siello s[e]cr[e]to a xx · dias de Março 12. del año · M · ccc · lxxx · vij · [1387] Latin Chancery Notes (Bottom): \* Left: Supra missa Regi Navarr[e] (Sent above to the King of Navarre) \* Below left: Similis fuit f[a]c[t]a Regine Navarr[e] (A similar one was made for the Queen of Navarre) \* Right (Signature/Validation): Rex ma[nu] [propria] (The King, by his own hand)

Show more

10:55 AM

Reconciled paleographic divergences against manuscript image systematically

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## Stage 2: Reconciliation

This is a rich comparison — the HTR gets several key readings right that I missed, but also introduces some errors, particularly in the Latin apparatus and closing formula. Let me work through the divergences systematically.

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

1. **"estamiento" (HTR) vs. "estar vro" (mine), line 1.** HTR is clearly right. "Estamiento" is standard Aragonese Castilian for "state/condition" and completes the formula perfectly: "deseamos saber de v(uest)ra salut e estamiento." I misread the compressed *-mi-* abbreviation as two separate words.
  2. **"desliurado" (HTR) vs. "deliberado" (mine), line 5.** HTR is correct. "Desliurado" (= *deslliurat*, freed/delivered) makes far better sense in the context of recovery from illness: "somos desliurado del [ailment]." "Deliberado" (= resolved) was a misreading driven by similar letter forms.
  3. **"complir lo he/mos" (HTR) vs. "complir lo se/mos" (mine), lines 9–10.** HTR resolves this correctly. The line break falls mid-word: "he-" at the end of line 9, "-mos" at the start of line 10 = "hemos" (future/obligation: "we will fulfill it"). My reading of "se-" was a misidentification of the *h*.
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### (B) Where the initial reading is preferred

1. **"sea Dios todos tiempos guarda vra" (mine) vs. "n(ost)ra dios todos tiempos guarda v(ost)ra" (HTR), line 10.** My reading is correct. "E sea Dios todos tiempos guarda vuestra" (= And may God be your guard at all times) is the standard valediction formula. HTR's "nostra dios" doesn't parse grammatically or formulaically.
2. **"z pa cosa" (mine) vs. "e se a cosa" (HTR), line 2–3.** My reading is preferred. "Pa" = *p(ar)a* (= for), yielding "para cosa de la qual hauremos muy grand plazer e consolacion" (= for anything from which we would have great pleasure and consolation). HTR's "se a cosa" has no grammatical function here.

3. **"companyona" (mine) vs. "compayona" (HTR), line 6.** Minor point: the nasal bar over the relevant letter requires expansion to *-ny-*. "Companyona" is the correct Aragonese form.
4. **"xxj dias" (mine) vs. "xx dias" (HTR), line 11.** Returning to the image, the mark following *xx* does appear to be a terminal *j*, as is standard in Roman numeral notation. I maintain "*xxj*" = 21.
5. **"Barch(in)ona" (mine) vs. "Barch(elo)na" (HTR), line 11.** The abbreviated form is *Barch~na*. In chancery usage the standard Latin expansion is "Barchinona." HTR's "Barcelona" is the modern Castilian form, which is anachronistic as an expansion here.
6. **Latin — "Fuit missa Regi Navarre" (mine) vs. "Supra missa Regi Navarre" (HTR).** "Fuit missa" (= was sent) is the standard chancery dispatch formula. "Supra missa" is not a recognized formula in this context. Looking at the image, the initial word has a form consistent with "fuit" (possibly abbreviated *fu<sup>t</sup>*).
7. **Latin — iussio: "D(omi)n(u)s Rex m(andavit) / [...] P. de Beuiure [?]" (mine) vs. "Rex manu propria" (HTR).** My reading is strongly preferred. The right-side notation is a standard *iussio* clause ("The Lord King ordered it"), not an autograph notation. "Rex manu propria" would be extraordinary and is not supported by the letter forms, which clearly show "Dns" preceding "Rex" and what appears to be "mادت" or "mat" (= *mandavit*), not "manu." The second line contains a scribe or secretary's name, likely Pere de Beviure.

### (C) Where both readings remain uncertain

1. **"quitos/quisto" + "accident/amort" (line 5).** This is the crux of the letter. I initially read "quitos del accident"; HTR reads "quisto d'l amort." Neither is fully satisfying:
  - "Bien quito(s) del accident" (= well free from the ailment) is formulaically sound — "accident" is standard chancery vocabulary for a sudden illness.
  - "Bien quisto del amort" doesn't parse well: "bien quisto" means "well-regarded" and doesn't collocate with illness/death.
  - However, looking at the image again, the word I read as "accident" does not obviously show the expected letter forms. The HTR's "amort" is also problematic.

- **Provisional reading:** "bien quito del accident [?]" — but this remains the most uncertain passage in the letter.
2. **"biuyemos/duyemos" (line 5).** I read "biuyemos," HTR reads "duyemos." Neither resolves to an obvious Aragonese verb form. Candidates: "haviemos" (= *habíamos*, we had), "soviemos" (= *teníamos*), "tuviaemos." The initial letter could be *b*, *d*, *h*, or *t* in this hand. The contextual meaning is clear — "the ailment that we had/experienced in our person" — but the specific form is unresolved. **Provisional:** "huviemos [?]" as the most likely intended form.
  3. **"grades certificar/avisar" (line 2).** Neither my reading nor the HTR's is fully convincing. The expected formula would be "nos ende fagades certificar" (= that you cause us to be certified thereof). What appears on the page as "grades" might be a misreading of "fagades," where initial *f* resembles *gr* in this hand. The word after it — whether "certificar" or "avisar" — is also unclear. **Provisional:** "fagades [?] certificar [?]."
  4. **"De [el] n(uest)ro" (lines 3–4).** My initial reading had "E el n(uest)ro"; HTR has "De n(uest)ro." The standard formula is "Del nostro vos placia saber" (= of ours, may it please you to know). Either "De el" or "Del" would work; the question is whether there's a line-break interruption. **Provisional:** "Del n(uest)ro" as the most formulaically expected reading.
  5. **Latin, second left-hand line.** I had "Simil(is) f(ui)t fac(ta) p(ro) Regine Nav(arre) sue [?]." HTR has "Similis fuit facta Regine Navarre." The abbreviations are very compressed. The presence of "pro" and the puzzling final "sue" remain uncertain. The core sense is clear: a similar letter was made for the Queen of Navarre.

## (D) Reconciled Transcription

### Main text:

Muy caro hermano, por que deseamos saber de v(uest)ra salut e estamiento buenas nuevas, rogamos vos affectuosament que nos ende fagades [?] certificar [?] amenudo, z pa(ra) cosa de la qual hauremos muy grand plazer z consolacion. Del n(uest)ro vos placia saber, muy caro hermano, que, loado el nombre de Dios, somos desliurado z bien quito [?] del accident [?] que huviemos [?] en n(uest)ra p(er)sona; e otrosi n(uest)ra cara companyona la Reyna z el dalfin n(uest)ro primogenito e las infantas n(uest)ras fillas, por bien somos la m(er)ced de Dios z en buena disposicion de sus p(er)sonas. E si algunas cosas, muy caro hermano, vos son plazientes destas partes, embiad nos lo a dezir z

complir lo hemos de muy buena voluntat. E sea Dios todos tiempos guarda v(uest)ra. Dada en Barch(in)ona dius n(uest)ro siello secreto a xxj dias de março del anyo M ccc lxxx vij.

### Latin chancery notations:

*Left:* Fuit missa Regi Navarre. Simil(is) fuit fac(ta) [pro?] Regine Navarre [sue?].

*Right (iussio):* D(omi)n(u)s Rex m(andavi)t [...] P. de Beuiure [?]

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### Confidence levels

Passage	Confidence
Overall text of letter	High
"estamiento"	High (HTR correction accepted)
"desliurado"	High (HTR correction accepted)
"complir lo hemos"	High (HTR correction accepted)
"sea Dios todos tiempos"	High (initial reading preferred)
"Fuit missa" / iussio formula	High (initial reading preferred)
"pa(ra) cosa"	Medium-high
"companyona"	Medium-high
"xxj dias"	Medium
"Del n(uest)ro"	Medium
"fagades [?] certificar [?]"	Low — both readings problematic
"bien quito del accident"	Low — paleographically uncertain
"huvimos [?]"	Low — initial letter unresolved
Second Latin line	Low — heavily abbreviated

Ready for your corrections before moving to Stage 3.

"bien quito del accident" is, in my reading, the certain correct transcription. I agree with you that the last word in the addressee second line is sue. It is possible that the second-to-last

word begins with a capital U or V and then has an x. Please attempt to figure out what the abbreviation might expand to, as you work on Stage 3. Please now proceed to Stage 3.

11:06 AM

Deciphered Latin abbreviation and prepared scholarly translation edition

Deciphered Latin abbreviation and prepared scholarly translation edition

That resolves it beautifully — "uxoris sue" = "his wife." So the line reads: *Similis fuit facta Regine Navarre uxoris sue* (= A similar letter was made for the Queen of Navarre, his wife). The abbreviation Vx with a suspension mark expanding to *uxoris* is entirely standard. Let me build the Stage 3 deliverable.

Opted to generate markdown file per project convention

Opted to generate markdown file per project convention

Project conventions call for markdown, so I'll write the file directly.

Acknowledged transcription and prepared to investigate abbreviation expansion

Acknowledged transcription and prepared to investigate abbreviation expansion

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

The "uxoris sue" resolution works perfectly — it's the standard chancery formula distinguishing a queen consort from a dowager or regnant queen. Thank you for catching the Vx letterform.

I gave the "dalfin" usage a fairly extensive note (footnotes 1 and 8) since it strikes me as genuinely significant for your dissertation's French cultural diffusion argument — a French royal title applied to Joan I's heir in an Aragonese chancery document barely weeks into the reign, in a letter sealed with the secret seal and addressed to a fellow Iberian king. If you'd prefer that toned down or reframed, let me know.

The three unresolved items from Stage 2 carry through: "fagades" vs. "grades," the initial letter of "huvimos," and the pre-name text in the iussio. Happy to revisit any of these if you return to the image.

Aca joan i bienestar navarra 1387 03 21

Document · MD

Want to be notified when Claude responds?

Claude is AI and can make mistakes. Please double-check responses.