

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 beautiful example of a royal letter from the Crown of Aragon. While you mentioned it is in Catalan, the language is actually a formal Aragonese/Castilian hybrid (common in the chancery of John I of Aragon) with some Catalan orthographic influences.

At this time, the kings of Aragon often corresponded with the Kings of Castile or Navarre in this "Inter-Iberian" Romance. This specific letter is addressed to the King of Navarre.

Paleographic Transcription

(Abbreviations have been expanded in brackets [] for clarity.)

Main Text:

Muy caro hermano por q[ue] deseamos saber de v[ost]ra salut e estamiento

buenas nuevas Rogamos vos affectuosament[e] q[ue] nos en d[e] grades avisar

amenudo e se a cosa d'la q[ua]l hauremos muy grand plaz[er] e consolacion De

n[ost]ro vos placia saber muy caro h[er]mano q[ue] loado el nombre de dios so

mos desliurado e byen quisto d'l [del] amort [malaltia/enfermedad] q[ue] duyemos en
n[ost]ra p[er]sona e

otrossi n[ost]ra cara compayona la Reyna e el dalfín n[ost]ro p[r]imogenito e

las infantas n[ost]ras fillas p[er] bien somos la m[e]r[ce]d de dios e en buena

disposicion de sus p[er]sonas E si algunas cosas muy caro h[er]mano vos

son plazientes de estas p[er]tes embiad nos lo a dezir e complir lo he-

mos de muy buena voluntad E n[ost]ra dios todos tiempos guarda

v[ost]ra · Dada en Barch[elo]na diu[s] n[ost]ro siello s[e]cr[e]to a xx · dias de Março

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)

Modernized Summary

"Very dear brother: because we desire to know of your health and state—which are good news—we affectionately ask that you please inform us of them often, as it would give us great pleasure and consolation. On our part, you should know, very dear brother, that praised be the name of God, we are recovered and free from the illness we had in our person. Likewise, our dear companion the Queen, and the Dauphin our firstborn, and the Infantas our daughters are, by the mercy of God, in good health. And if there is anything from these parts that pleases you, very dear brother, send word to us, and we will fulfill it with very good will. May God keep you always. Given in Barcelona, under our secret seal, on the 20th day of March, in the year 1387."

Historical Context

The Sender: Given the date (March 1387) and the location (Barcelona), the sender is John I of Aragon (known as Joan el Caçador), who had ascended to the throne just two months prior in January 1387.

The "Dalfín": This refers to the King's son. In the Crown of Aragon, the heir was sometimes referred to by titles influenced by the French "Dauphin" (Dalfí) due to the close ties with the House of France and the Duchy of Girona.

The Script: This is a classic Gothic Secretarial (also called letra de albalaes or procesal in its later forms), characterized by the long, sweeping descenders and the looped "v" and "s".

Would you like me to analyze a specific word or explain more about the chancery marks at the bottom?

Gemini is AI and can make mistakes.