

Claude Project, Opus 4.6

March 8, 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.

12:01 PM

Meticulously transcribed medieval Catalan letter with paleographic uncertainties flagged

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Looking at this carefully — a queen's letter in Catalan, clearly from Violant de Bar given the closing formula and the chancery directive. Here is my Stage 1 transcription:

Document type: Royal correspondence — courtesy/health inquiry from Queen Violant de Bar to the King of France (Charles VI) **Date:** 25 March 1387, Barcelona **Language:** Catalan (body); Latin (chancery annotations)

Initial Transcription

Molt alt e poderos princep e cosi molt car desijants continuament ab fervor desig saber vra sanitat e bon estament vos pregam tan affectuosament co podem que per vres honorables letres nos en vullats certificar tota vegada ques sia en aviner [?] car cosa fa de que·ns farets plaer molt gran que fort nos grahirem. E car sabem que semblantment vos plaurea saber nre bon estat vos notificam que nos e nres Infants som sans e en bona disposicio de nres persones. E quel senyor Rey marit e senyor nre molt car es en tanta conualescencia de sa malaltia que dins breu espera e[ss]er guarit p[er]- fetament gracias a nre senyor deu. E si alcunes coses vos placen cosi molt car que nos fer puscam fetsles nos saber e seran complides encontinent. la s[an]ta trinitat vos tinga en sa guarda e faça tots temps prosperar segons vres vots. Dada en Barchinona sots nre segell secret a xxv dies de marc del any M ccc lxxx^o vij. la Reyna.

[Latin annotations below:]

ffuit directa Regi ffrancie.

[Right-side authorization:]

d[omi]na R[egin]a ma[n]d[avi]t in [?] Barth[olomeu]s priuot [?] [notarial sign]

Notes on uncertain readings

"aviner" (line 3): The word after "en" is difficult. I read it as *aviner*, a variant form of *avenir* ("to come about / happen"), yielding the formulaic phrase "tota vegada ques sia en avenir" = "every time that anything may come about." The *-iner* ending could reflect scribal orthographic variation, but I'm not fully confident — the letter forms could also support *ouir* or another reading. Flagging for reconciliation.

"espera e[ss]er guarit p[er]fctament" (lines 7–8): The line break splits *perfctament* across two lines. The reading seems secure from context — "hopes to be perfectly healed" — but the last few letters of line 7 before the break are slightly cramped.

Right-side authorization: The chancery notation is small and compressed. I read the mandating formula as "domina Regina mandavit" followed by what appears to be a scribal identification. The second line looks like "Bartholomeus priuot" but *priuot* is uncertain — it could be a surname (Privost? Priuot?) or a title. The first line's final word after "mandavit" may be a preposition or a name beginning.

"xxv dies de marc": I read the day as 25 (xxv), though there may be a descending stroke after the final minim that could be read as *j*, making it 26. The year, "M ccc lxxx^o vij," is clearly 1387.

This is a lovely piece of early-reign courtesy correspondence — Violant writing to her Valois cousin Charles VI, reporting on Joan I's convalescence so soon after his accession. Ready for Stage 2 whenever you have HTR output or want to proceed directly to translation.

Here is the output from the other HTR for Stage 2: Transcription Catalan Text Molt alt e poderoso princep e cosi molt car Desijants continuament ab fervent desitj saber vostra sanitat e bon estament vos pregam tan afectuosament co podem que per vostres honorables letres nos en vullats certifficar tota vegada que si en nenguna car cosa ha de que fer-vos plaer molt gran que fort nos gahirem. E car sabem que semblantment vos plauria saber nostre bon estat vos notificam que nos e nostres infants som sans e en bona disposicio de nostres persones. E quel senyor Rey marit e senyor nostre molt car es en tanta convalescencia de sa malaltia que dins breu s'espera cert guarir per- fectament. Gras

a nostre senyor Deu. E si alcunes coses vos plaen cosi molt car que nos fer puscam fets-les nos saber e seran complides encontinent. La santa trinitat vos tinga en sa guarda e faça tot temps prosperar segons vostres vots. Dada en Barcelona sots nostre segell secret a xxij dies d'marc l'any Mil CCC Lxxxvij. La Reyna. Latin Notations (Bottom) * Left: fuit directa Regi Francie * Right: Domina Regina mandavit mihi, Bartolomeo Sirvent, Probatum

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12:07 PM

Reconciled transcription discrepancies against manuscript source material

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Stage 2: Reconciliation

(A) Where HTR corrects or improves the initial reading

1. **"fervent desitj" vs. my "fervor desig"**: Looking back at the manuscript, the HTR's *fervent desitj* is plausible — the word after *ab* does appear to have a final -*t* stroke, and the next word could be *desitj* rather than *desig* as a separate noun. However, I'm not fully convinced either way. The phrase *ab fervor desig* ("with fervent desire") and *ab fervent desitj* ("with fervent desire") yield essentially the same meaning, but the HTR's reading of two adjective+noun may better match the letter forms. I'll **tentatively prefer the HTR** here but flag it.
2. **"que si en nenguna" vs. my "ques sia en aviner"**: This is the most significant divergence. Returning to the image, the HTR reads *que si en nenguna* — which would yield something like "every time that if in any..." This is syntactically incomplete as the HTR gives it. My reading *ques sia en aviner* ("whenever anything may come about") is formulaically coherent but I was uncertain about *aviner*. Looking again at the manuscript, I think neither reading is fully satisfactory. The letter forms after *que* are compressed. The HTR's *nenguna* is possible, but the phrase needs a verb. I'll flag this as **unresolved** — see section (C).
3. **"ha de que" vs. my "fa de que·ns"**: The HTR reads *car cosa ha de que* where I read *car cosa fa de que·ns*. Returning to the image, the initial letter of this verb is ambiguous — it could be *h* or *f*. The HTR's *ha* ("there is") is syntactically workable ("for anything there is by which to give you great pleasure"), but so is my *fa* ("it does/makes"). I'll treat this as **uncertain** but lean slightly toward the HTR's *ha* given the minims.

4. **"s'espera cert guarir" vs. my "espera e[ss]er guarit"**: The HTR gives a reflexive construction with *cert* ("certainly hopes to be healed"). Looking at the image again, I can see what I read as *e[ss]er* could indeed be *cert* — the letter forms are cramped at the line's end. The HTR's reading is grammatically strong: *s'espera cert guarir* = "he certainly hopes/is expected to heal." I **prefer the HTR** here.
5. **"Gras" vs. my "gracias"**: Looking at the manuscript, the word is abbreviated. The HTR's *Gras* is possible as a Catalan shortened form, but I think I see a suspension mark that would support *gracias*. **Slight preference for my reading**, but minor.
6. **"plaen" vs. my "placen"**: The HTR omits the *c*. Returning to the image, I think I can see a *c* — *placen* is the standard Catalan form. **Prefer my reading**.
7. **"xxij" vs. my "xxv"**: This is important for dating. Looking at the manuscript again, the day numeral is followed by strokes that are difficult to parse. The HTR reads 22 (xxij), I read 25 (xxv). The final minims are genuinely ambiguous. I'll **flag as uncertain** — the difference matters for itinerary reconstruction.
8. **"Bartolomeo Sirvent" / "Probatum" vs. my "Bartholomeus priuot"**: The HTR's reading of the chancery annotation is substantially different from mine. *Bartolomeo Sirvent* is a known chancery scribe name, and *Probatum* is a standard chancery validation formula. My reading of *priuot* was tentative. I **strongly prefer the HTR** here — *Bartholomeus Sirvent* with *Probatum* makes excellent institutional sense.
9. **"mandavit mihi" vs. my "mandavit in"**: The HTR reads *mihi* where I had *in* [?]. The formula *domina Regina mandavit mihi* ("the lady Queen commanded me") is the standard chancery iussio. **Prefer the HTR**.

(B) Where the initial reading is preferred

1. **"tots temps" vs. HTR "tot temps"**: Looking at the image, I see a final *-s* on *tots*. My reading *tots temps* is correct.
2. **"Barchinona" vs. HTR "Barcelona"**: The manuscript clearly writes *Barchinona* with the Latinized *-ch-* spelling. The HTR has silently modernized.
3. **"del any M ccc lxxx^o vij" vs. HTR "l'any Mil CCC Lxxxvij"**: My reading preserves the manuscript's actual letter forms more faithfully — the HTR has normalized the numerals.

4. **"ffuit directa" vs. HTR "fuit directa"**: The manuscript clearly has a double-f initial (*ff-*), characteristic of chancery practice.
5. **"conualescencia" vs. HTR "convalescencia"**: The scribe writes *u* not *v*—preserving as *conualescencia* per our orthographic conventions.

(C) Where both readings remain uncertain

1. **Lines 3–4: "tota vegada que..."** — The passage between *tota vegada* and *car cosa* remains the most problematic stretch. Neither my *ques sia en aviner* nor the HTR's *que si en nenguna* produces a fully satisfying syntactic unit. Looking at the image once more, I wonder whether the reading might be something like *tota vegada ques sia en avenir car cosa ha de que·ns* — combining elements of both. But I cannot confirm this with confidence. **Flagged [?]**.
2. **Date: xxij vs. xxv** — Genuinely ambiguous from the minims. **Flagged [?]**.

(D) Reconciled Transcription

Molt alt e poderos princep e cosi molt car desijants continuament ab fervent desitj [?] saber vra sanitat e bon estament vos pregam tan affectuosament co podem que per vres honorables letres nos en vullats certifficar tota vegada ques sia en avenir [?] car cosa ha [?] de que·ns farets plaer molt gran que fort nos grahirem. E car sabem que semblantment vos plaurea [?] saber nre bon estat vos notificam que nos e nres Infants som sans e en bona disposicio de nres persones. E quel senyor Rey marit e senyor nre molt car es en tanta conualescencia de sa malaltia que dins breu s'espera cert guarir per- fetament gracias a nre senyor deu. E si alcunes coses vos placen cosi molt car que nos fer puscam fetsles nos saber e seran complides encontinent. la s[an]ta trinitat vos tinga en sa guarda e faça tots temps prosperar segons vres vots. Dada en Barchinona sots nre segell secret a xxv [?] dies de marc del any M ccc lxxx^o vij. la Reyna.

[Left:] ffuit directa Regi ffrancie.

[Right:] d[omi]na R[egin]a ma[n]d[avi]t michi / Barth[olome]o Sirvent / Probatum

Ready for your corrections before Stage 3, or shall I proceed to the markdown deliverable?

Here is my best reading of the problematic stretch in Lines 3-4: "tota vengada que'us sia en avinent car cosa serva de qu'ens farets plaer.." The most difficult word is what I have as

"avient" and I would like you to consider other possibilities keeping in mind that the descending letter must be either an "i" or part of a "y" and that the last two written letters of the word are very certainly "et" (although "ec" remains an outside possibility). Your transcription of the minims for the year in the dating clause is correct. The date ends in vii, for 7. Please now proceed to Stage 3.

12:17 PM

Validated paleographic readings and reconciled medieval Catalan manuscript text

Validated paleographic readings and reconciled medieval Catalan manuscript text

Thank you, Jonathan. Your corrections clarify the passage substantially. On "avinent" — I'm quite confident that's the correct word. Medieval Catalan *avinent* ("convenient, at hand") is well attested, and the expression *ésser en avinent* is formulaic: "to be convenient / to arise." What you're seeing as "avient" in the manuscript is almost certainly *avinent* with one minim lost in the dense *-vinent* sequence — exactly the kind of minim confusion one expects. I can't think of any other Catalan word matching your paleographic constraints (descending *i* or *y*, final *-et* or *-ec*) that would make contextual sense. So I'll proceed with *avinent* at high confidence.

Let me build the deliverable now.

Acknowledged paleographic analysis and advanced to next stage

Acknowledged paleographic analysis and advanced to next stage

Here's the deliverable. A couple of notes on choices I made:

On "**vengada**" in your reading — I retained *vegada* in the reconciled transcription since that was my original reading and the standard Catalan form. If you see an intrusive nasal in the manuscript (*vengada*), let me know and I'll update.

On "**serva**" — I've treated it as present subjunctive of *servir*, which yields good sense ("for it is a thing that may serve to give us great pleasure"). I flagged in the ambiguities section that *sera* (future of *ésser*) can't be entirely excluded paleographically, in case you want to revisit.

The letter itself is a nice early piece of Violant's diplomatic activity with the French court — writing to Charles VI as *cosi* just weeks into Joan's reign, and already managing the messaging around his health.

Aca violant letter king france 1387 03 25

Document · MD

Want to be notified when Claude responds?

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