

ACA, Cancillería, Reg. 1751, fol. 142v

Royal Mandate Enforcing an Arbitral Sentence Concerning a Perpetual Pension of 100 Morabatins Owed to Thomas Solers

Document Summary

A mandate registered in the chancery of **Queen Violant de Bar**, dated **Barcelona, 23 March 1387**, ordering a group of named individuals to comply with an arbitral pronouncement (*pronunciatio arbitralis*) concerning a **perpetual pension of 100 morabatins** owed to **Thomas Solers**. The pronouncement was originally issued by a certain **Petrus** [?], *legum doctor* and royal counselor, together with **Raymundus Ballisterii** [?], licentiate in laws, on **28 February 1386** [?]. The arbitral sentence had been confirmed by two subsequent sets of royal letters: one from **Pere III** (dated Barcelona, 25 March [1386]) and one from **Joan I** (dated Barcelona, 8 February 1387 [?]). The present mandate threatens a penalty of **100 gold florins** and rigid execution upon the addressees' property for non-compliance. Chancery validation: "**Vidit de Ponte**" [?].

The date of 23 March 1387 places this document in the earliest weeks of Joan I's reign (Pere III died 5 January 1387), a period in which the new king and queen routinely confirmed and enforced dispositions of the prior reign.

Reconciled Latin Transcription

Thome Solers antiquioris Guillermi Aranyo, Arnaldi cons[...] [?] aus [?] Anthonini
madoy [?] Guillermi Racho, Guillermi Solere, Petri Solere, Longenbeyes [?] et Romey [?]
carnar [?] d[omi]ni [?] de Castro, Ottone [?] quandam pensionem centum morabatinorum dicto [?]
perpetuam solu[cion]e [ces]satam [?] vobis [?] iusticia non potuit per quam aliquantum in preiudicium
manifestum ob quod supplicato nobis super hiis debite provideri exhibens idem [?] tantum [?] iuris
presenciarum [?] quandam pronunciacionem arbitralem latam per fidelem consiliarium per Petrum [?]
legum
doctorem consiliarium nostrum et Raymundum Ballisterii [?] licenciatum in legibus die
XXVIIIo mensis Februarii [?] anno LXXXVIo [?] singulis in ea contentis dictis quibusdam litteris
occasione dicte pronunciacionis emanatis et signatis manu illustrissimi domini Regis patris
recolende memorie patris nostri que data fuit Barcinone XXV mensis Marcii anno propreterito
aliis serenissimi domini Regis domini et genitoris nostri carissimi que data fuit Barchinone
VIII [?] die Februarii anno subscripto in e[ande]m [?] per quas mandabat pronunciacionem per quam supra
mencionem fieri et contenta in ea exequi et compleri cum pertis [?] clausulis et cautelis
appositis in eisdem. Verum cum sit congruum rationi quod idem Thomas ius suum consequatur
volumus vobis et vestrum cuilibet dicimus et mandamus sub pena Centum florenorum auri
quotiens contrafactum fuerit eandem [?] quatenus pronunciacionem et litteras supradictas servato semper
earum forma et tenore dicto Thome supradicto iuxta pronunciacionem satisfieri faciatis quibusvis
dilacionibus et maliciis obsistentibus nullo modo at nisi ad implementum quod mandamus

presenciarum ostensor quod [?] vobis dicimus et mandamus sub dicta transgressione ad vos nu[ntiu]m [?]
v[est]rum portantem [?] qui in bonis vestris exequacione rigida fiant pro premissis semper
dicto Thome debitis et pena in qua incurretis et ultra nos et vestrum quelibet
puniemus. Datus Barchinone sub nostro communi sigillo affixo [?] XXIIIo die Marcii
anno a nativitate Domini Millesimo CCCo LXXXo septimo.
Rex · · · V[edit] de Ponte [?]

Annotated English Translation

[To] Thomas Solers the Elder,(1) Guillermus Aranyo, Arnaldus [?],(2) Anthoninus Madoy [?],(3) Guillermus Racho, Guillermus Solere, Petrus Solere, Longenbeyes [?] and Romey Carnar [?],(4) lord [?] of Castro,(5) [and] Otto [?]:(6)

[Concerning] a certain perpetual pension of one hundred morabatins(7) — payment of which has ceased ? — [and which] could not [be recovered] through your [ordinary] justice, to no small prejudice(9) [of the said Thomas], on account of which [matter] supplication has been made to us that we duly provide [a remedy] in this regard, [the supplicant] presenting certain legal [documents],(10)

[namely] a certain arbitral pronouncement issued by [our] faithful counselor, Petrus [?],(11) doctor of laws [and] our counselor, and Raymundus Ballisterii [?],(12) licentiate in laws, on the 28th day of the month of February [?] in the year [13]86 [?],(13) [with instructions concerning] each [matter] contained therein;

[and] with certain letters issued on account of the said pronouncement, signed by the hand of the most illustrious lord King, our father of celebrated memory(14) — which was given at Barcelona, the 25th of the month of March of the preceding year(15) — [together with] other [letters] of the most serene lord King, our lord and beloved progenitor,(16) which were given at Barcelona on the 8th [?] day of February of the year written below,(17) by which [letters] he ordered that the pronouncement mentioned above be carried out, and the things contained in it be executed and fulfilled, with the relevant(18) clauses and safeguards set forth therein.

Now since it is fitting and reasonable that the same Thomas should obtain his right, we will and command you, and each of you, under a penalty of one hundred gold florins(19) [to be incurred] as often as [this order] shall be contravened, that you cause the said Thomas to be satisfied in accordance with the pronouncement and the letters aforesaid, the form and tenor of those [instruments] always being observed, [and that you do so] notwithstanding any delays or malicious obstructions whatsoever, and in no other way than toward the fulfillment of what we command.

[We further command that] the bearer of the present letter declare to you that we say and command [you], under [penalty for] the said transgression, [that if] you are not willing to comply [?],(21) rigid execution shall be made upon your goods for the things owed to the said Thomas as aforesaid, and [we shall impose] the penalty which you will have incurred, and moreover we shall punish you and each of you.

Given at Barcelona, under our common seal affixed [?], the 23rd day of March, in the year of the Nativity of the Lord one thousand three hundred and eighty-seven.

Footnotes

1. **Thomas Solers the Elder** (*Thome Solers antiquioris*): The use of "antiquioris" (the elder) distinguishes this individual from another Thomas Solers — almost certainly the younger Thomas Solers who is the beneficiary of the pension and the party on whose behalf this mandate is issued. The document thus appears to involve an intra-family dispute, with the elder Thomas among those ordered to pay the pension to the younger.
2. **Arnaldus**: The surname or title following "Arnaldi" is unclear. The HTR reads "cons[iliarii]," which would make him a counselor, but this is uncertain. One or two additional words follow before "Anthonini" that could not be securely read.
3. **Anthoninus Madoy** [?]: The surname is uncertain. Both HTR versions read "madoy/mador"; the manuscript is ambiguous. An earlier hypothesis that this was "maior" (the elder) is less likely now that "antiquioris" has been identified as the distinguishing epithet for Thomas Solers.
4. **Longenbeyes** [?] and **Romey Carnar** [?]: These names appear at the end of the addressee list. "Longenbeyes" is an unusual form, possibly a compound surname or place-based designation. "Romey" may be a vernacular form (cf. Catalan *Romeu*). "Carnar" is likewise uncertain — it could be a surname or the beginning of a further designation. The segmentation of names and titles in this passage remains provisional.
5. **Lord** [?] of **Castro** (*d[omi]ni [?] de Castro*): The HTR reads "domini de Castro," suggesting one of the addressees holds the lordship of Castro. Several Castros are attested in the Crown of Aragon (notably in Aragon proper). However, the exact relationship between "de Castro" and the surrounding names is unclear — it could modify "Romey Carnar" or be a separate individual.
6. **Otto** [?] (*Ottone*): The final name in the addressee list. The HTR alternately reads "Orione," but "Ottone" (Otto) is a more plausible personal name in this context.
7. **One hundred morabatins** (*centum morabatinorum*): The morabatin (*morabati*) was a unit of account in the Crown of Aragon, originally derived from the Almoravid gold dinar. By the late fourteenth century it functioned primarily as a money of account for rents and pensions rather than as a circulating coin. One hundred morabatins represented a substantial annual pension.
8. **Payment of which has ceased** [?] (*solucione cessatam* [?]): The reading is uncertain. The general sense is that the pension payments have been interrupted or withheld, prompting the beneficiary's legal action. "Cessatam" is a conjecture based on context; the manuscript reading is unclear and both HTR versions offer garbled alternatives.
9. **To no small prejudice** (*aliquantum in preiudicium manifestum*): The formula indicates that the non-payment constitutes a manifest and significant injury to the creditor's rights.

10. **Certain legal documents:** The passage between the narration of the supplication and the description of the arbitral pronouncement is among the most damaged and uncertain in the document. The general sense is that the supplicant (Thomas Solers the younger) presented legal instruments — the arbitral sentence and the confirming royal letters — in support of his petition.
11. **Petrus [?]:** The first arbiter is identified as a *legum doctor* (doctor of laws) and royal counselor. The name "Petrus" is based on HTR v2's reading of "per Petrum" and is plausible but not fully secure; the abbreviation is compressed. If correct, this may be identifiable in the chancery personnel of Pere III's later reign.
12. **Raymundus Ballisterii [?]:** The second arbiter, a *licenciatus in legibus* (licentiate in laws). The surname "Ballisterii" (vernacular: Ballester) is well attested in the Crown of Aragon, though the exact reading remains uncertain — the initial letter could be read as B or G. If Ballisterii is correct, this individual may be identifiable in Aragonese legal prosopography.
13. **28 February [?] 1386 [?]:** The date of the original arbitral pronouncement. The month is uncertain — my initial reading suggested October (8bris), while the HTR consistently reads February. The year is likewise uncertain between 1386 (HTR) and 1377 (initial reading). The 1386 date creates a more coherent chronological sequence: arbitral sentence (February 1386) → confirmation by Pere III (March 1386) → confirmation by Joan I (February 1387) → present enforcement mandate (March 1387). However, extended delays in enforcement of arbitral sentences were not uncommon.
14. **Our father of celebrated memory** (*illustrissimi domini Regis patris recolende memorie patris nostri*): Pere III of Aragon (r. 1336–1387), who died 5 January 1387. The epithet "recolende memorie" (of celebrated/revered memory) is the standard formula for a deceased king.
15. **The 25th of March of the preceding year** (*XXV mensis Marcii anno propreterito*): i.e., 25 March 1386. Pere III confirmed the arbitral sentence approximately one month after it was issued.
16. **Our lord and beloved progenitor** (*serenissimi domini Regis domini et genitoris nostri carissimi*): This second set of confirming letters carries a different royal epithet. If the present mandate is issued in the name of Joan I, both "patris nostri" (fn. 14) and "genitoris nostri" refer to Pere III with different honorific formulae. However, this document is registered in Queen Violant de Bar's chancery (ACA, Cancillería, Reg. 1751), which raises the question of whether Violant herself is the issuer — in which case "genitoris nostri" applied to Pere III (her father-in-law) would be an unusual but not impossible extension of the royal plural. Alternatively, the second set of letters may be from Joan I himself, with "genitoris nostri carissimi" a scribal lapse or formulaic carryover. The relationship between the two sets of confirming letters and the identity of their respective issuers would benefit from comparison with parallel documents in Joan I's own registers.
17. **8th [?] day of February of the year written below** (*VIII [?] die Februarii anno subscripto*): i.e., 8 February 1387 — approximately six weeks before the present enforcement mandate. "Anno subscripto" directs the reader to the dating clause at the end of the document (1387). If this letter was issued after Pere III's death (5 January 1387), it is necessarily from Joan I's reign.

18. **Relevant** (*pertis* [?]): The reading is uncertain. This may be an abbreviated form of "pertinentis" or "debitis" (appropriate, relevant) modifying the clauses and safeguards of the confirming letters.
 19. **One hundred gold florins** (*centum florenorum auri*): The gold florin (*florí d'or*) of Aragon was modeled on the Florentine original. The penalty of 100 florins — distinct from the 100 morabatins of the pension itself — represents a substantial enforcement sanction.
 20. **The bearer of the present letter** (*presenciarum ostensor*): Standard formula designating the individual physically presenting the mandate to the addressees. This person would typically be a royal messenger or *porter* charged with both delivering the document and initiating enforcement if necessary.
 21. **Lines 19–20, enforcement clause**: The syntax of this passage is difficult and several individual words remain uncertain. The general sense is clear: if the addressees refuse to comply, a royal agent will carry out rigid execution upon their property for the debts owed to Thomas Solers, and they will additionally incur the stated penalty. The precise conditional and procedural language, however, could not be fully reconstructed.
 22. **Vidit de Ponte** [?]: The chancery validation formula. "Vidit" (reviewed/approved) followed by the name of a chancery official is standard. "De Ponte" is an attested surname in the Aragonese royal administration, though the reading is not fully secure. "Rex" appears before the validation, indicating the mandate carries royal authority.
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Unresolved Ambiguities

1. **Addressee list (lines 1–3)**: The precise segmentation and identification of names between "Arnaldi" and "quandam pensionem" remains provisional. Key uncertainties include the word(s) after "Arnaldi" (surname? title?), the reading "Madoy" (surname or corrupt form?), "Longenbeyes" (unusual compound?), "Carnar" (surname?), and whether "domini de Castro" modifies a preceding name or designates a separate individual.
2. **Issuer identity**: The internal formulae ("patris nostri," "genitoris nostri," "Rex") suggest royal authority, but the document is registered in Violant de Bar's chancery series. Whether Violant issued this mandate in her own right (perhaps under delegated authority), or whether Joan I's chancery produced it and it was copied into Violant's register because it concerned her interests, cannot be determined from this document alone.
3. **Lines 4–6, narrative of non-payment and supplication**: The passage between "perpetuam" and "quandam pronunciacionem" is the least legible stretch of the document. The overall sense — that the pension went unpaid, causing prejudice, and prompting a petition supported by documentary evidence — is clear, but individual words remain uncertain, particularly "solucione cessatam [?]," "exhibens idem tantum iuris [?]," and "presenciarum [?]."

4. **Date of the arbitral sentence (line 8):** The month (February vs. October) and the year (1386 vs. 1377) remain uncertain. The February 1386 reading is preferred on chronological grounds but is not paleographically secure.
5. **"In e[ande]m [?]" (line 12):** The word or phrase between "anno subscripto" and "per quas" is unclear. HTR v2 read "in francia," which is rejected. The reconciled reading "in eandem" is conjectural.
6. **Lines 19–20, enforcement procedure:** The conditional clause connecting the bearer's presentation of the mandate to the threat of rigid execution contains several individually uncertain words. The overall legal mechanism is standard, but the precise syntax could not be fully recovered.
7. **Chancery validation:** "Vidit de Ponte" is probable but not fully secure. The surname could alternatively be "de Bono" or another similar form.