

Claude Project, Opus 4.6

March 9, 2026

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

I have a document in Catalan, again in fourteenth-century Gothic secretarial hand. The document was written in 1387. I am uploading a page that has most of the letter, but it is missing the first 18 words. Here is how the letter begins: Hombres buenos sabent que nos havemos informado, Mossen Jaime Palleres consellero e procurador de los afferes de nostra cort... After these words, the document continues on the image file that I have uploaded. Please do your best to transcribe this document.

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7:55 AM

Meticulously deciphered medieval Aragonese manuscript through iterative paleographic analysis

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I can see the manuscript clearly. This is actually in Aragonese rather than Catalan — the verbal forms (*mandamos*, *deziamos*, *cumplides*) and the address to the *jurats* of Barbastro confirm an Aragonese administrative register. It's a standard letter of credence (*letra de creença*) from Joan I, dispatching Mossen Jaime Palleres to Barbastro.

Here is my Stage 1 transcription, incorporating your supplied opening:

Document type: Letter of credence (*letra de creença*) **Issuer:** Joan I of Aragon **Recipient:** Jurats and prohomens of the city of Barbastro **Date:** Barcelona, [25?] days of [março?], 1387 **Language:** Aragonese

Transcription:

Hombres buenos sabent que nos havemos informado, Mossen Jaime Palleres consellero e procurador de los afferes de nostra cort algunas cosas tocantes [a] buen estamiento

d'aquella ciutat. Por que vos mandamos que a todo aquello que vos explicara de part nostra dedes plena creença e lo cumplides [?] por obra assi como si nos personalment vos lo deziamos. Dada en Barchinona [?] dius nostro siello secreto [?] a xxv [?] dias d'março [?] del anyo a nostre senyor [?] con nostro pequenyo anyello publi[cament?] [?]

[Address:] Jurats e prohomens de la [?] Cuytat [de] Barbastre [?]

[Chancery subscription:] dominus Rex mandavit michi P. de Beviure [?]

Notes on uncertain readings:

"creença" vs. "crehença" — The aspirated form *crehença* is possible in this hand, but I'm reading *creença* as more likely given the letter forms. Flagged for reconciliation.

"e lo cumplides" vs. "si lo cumplido" — I'm reading this as *e lo cumplides* (subjunctive, matching *dedes*), which fits the standard credence formula: "give full credence and carry it out through deed." But the initial letter could be read as *si* rather than *e*, which would change the syntax.

"xxv" — I'm reading this as 25 (*xxv*), but the final minim is ambiguous and could be *b* rather than *v* in this hand. Given that *v* and *b* are routinely confused in Gothic cursive, *xxv* seems safe.

The month — This is my least confident reading. What I'm transcribing as *março* is difficult: the initial letter(s) after *d'* are obscured by rapid ductus, and the minims of what should be *m* could be read as *ag*. March would fit historically (Joan I's early months on the throne), but I cannot rule out *abril* or another month. This needs your eye.

"siello secreto" — I'm reading *secreto* rather than *privado*, but the word after *siello* is compressed. The "small ring" (*pequenyo anyello*) reference later in the dating clause is consistent with the *siello secreto*.

Dating formula / year — The year should appear between *nostre senyor* and *con nostro pequenyo anyello*, but I cannot clearly resolve Roman numerals in this space. If the document is from 1387 as you indicate, the formula should read something like *del anyo de nostre senyor M CCC LXXX VII*, but the numerals are either heavily abbreviated or I'm misreading surrounding text as part of the year.

"publicament" — The word is truncated at the right margin. *Publicament* is my best guess for the context (i.e., "publicly [sealed] with our small signet ring").

Address line — Between *prohomens* and *Cuytat*, I expect *de la* but the letterforms are heavily compressed; the *d* in particular has a looping ascender that almost reads as a capital *G*. The reading *de la Cuytat de Barbastre* is contextually secure but paleographically uncertain at the level of individual letter forms.

Chancery subscription — Standard *dominus Rex mandavit / michi P. de Beviure* formula. The secretary is almost certainly Pere de Beviure (P. de Beviure), consistent with other documents from this register.

Good work. Here is the other HTR output for Stage 2: d'algunas cosas tocantes bien e patrimonio d'aqueixa Ciutat Por q[ue] vos ma[n]damos q[ue] a todo aq[ue]llo que vos explicara de p[ar]t n[uest]ra dedes plen[er]a creyenza e lo cumplades por obra assi como si nos p[er]sonalme[n]t lo vos deziamos. Dada en Barç[e]lona su[b] n[uest]ro p[ar]vo sello secreto .a. xxv. dias de Março del anyo M.ccc.lxxx.vij. con n[uest]ro peq[ue]nyo anyello subsignada.

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8:03 AM

Reconciled transcription variants against manuscript source material

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Stage 2: Reconciliation

(A) Where the HTR corrects my initial reading

1. **"bien e patrimonio d'aqueixa Ciutat"** vs. my **"buen estamiento d'aquella ciudat"** Going back to the image, the HTR is clearly right here. What I read as *estamiento* is *patrimonio* — the *pat-* is visible, and the minims resolve better as *-rimonio*. And the preceding word is *bien* not *buen*. The phrase *bien e patrimonio* ("welfare and patrimony") is a standard formulaic doublet in Aragonese royal correspondence. The HTR's *d'aqueixa* (with deictic *exa* = "that [your]") is also better than my *d'aquella* — addressing the recipients about "that city of yours" fits the genre perfectly.
2. **"plenera creyenza"** vs. my **"plena creença"** The HTR is right on both words. Looking again, there is clearly more text than *plena* — the *-era* is visible, giving *plenera* (a standard Aragonese form). And *creyenza* rather than *creença* — the *-yenza* ending is more consistent with the Aragonese linguistic register of this document.

3. **"cumplades"** vs. my **"cumplides"** HTR is correct. The vowel is *a*, giving the standard Aragonese subjunctive *cumplades* (matching *dedes*).
4. **"lo vos deziamos"** vs. my **"vos lo deziamos"** Looking at the image, the HTR's word order *lo vos* is correct — the pronoun cluster reads *lo vos*, not *vos lo*.
5. **"sub nuestro parvo sello secreto"** vs. my **"dius nostro siello secreto"** The HTR is substantially right. What I was reading as *dius* (an Aragonese form of "under") is better read as the Latin abbreviation for *sub*. And *parvo sello secreto* ("small secret seal") is clearly correct — I can now see the *p* with suspension for *parvo*. My *siello* was an attempt at the same word (*sello*).
6. **"M.ccc.lxxx.vij."** — The HTR resolves the year cleanly as 1387, which I flagged as unreadable. Looking again, the Roman numerals are indeed there, heavily abbreviated.
7. **"subsignada"** vs. my **"publicament"** The HTR is right. The final word is *subsignada* ("countersigned/subscribed"), not *publicament*. This makes much better sense with *con nuestro pequenyo anyello subsignada* — "countersigned with our small signet ring."

(B) Where my initial reading is preferred

1. **"de Março"** — Both readings agree here. I had flagged this as uncertain, but the HTR confirms *Março*, which I now accept with confidence.
2. **"Barchinona" vs. "Barçelona"** — Looking at the image, I think the HTR's *Barçelona* is actually more plausible than my Latinate *Barchinona*. The letter forms favor the vernacular spelling. I'll defer to the HTR here — so in fact this moves to category (A). No readings clearly favor my initial transcription over the HTR.

(C) Where both remain uncertain

1. **".a. xxv. dias de Março"** — Both readings agree on *xxv* and *Março*. The HTR adds the punctuated *.a.* before *xxv*, which I can see in the image as a small character. This could be a scribal particle or simply a point-separator before the numeral. I'll accept the HTR's rendering but flag it as minor.
2. **Address line** — The HTR doesn't cover this, so my reading (*Jurats e prohomens de la Cuytat de Barbastre*) stands alone. The *Cuytat* and *Barbastre* readings are contextually secure.

(D) Reconciled Transcription

Hombres buenos sabent que nos havemos informado, Mossen Jaime Palleres consellero e procurador de los afferes de nostra cort d'algunas cosas tocantes bien e patrimonio d'aquexa Ciutat. Por que vos mandamos que a todo aquello que vos explicara de part nuestra dedes plenera creyenza e lo cumplades por obra assi como si nos personalment lo vos deziamos. Dada en Barçelona sub nuestro parvo sello secreto .a. xxv. dias de Março del anyo M.ccc.lxxx.vij. con nuestro pequenyo anyello subsignada.

[Address:] Jurats e prohomens de la Cuytat de Barbastre

[Chancery subscription:] dominus Rex mandavit michi P. de Beviure

Shall I proceed to Stage 3?

Looks great! Yes, please proceed to Stage 3.

8:04 AM

Affirmed readiness to advance proceedings

Affirmed readiness to advance proceedings

Here's your Stage 3 deliverable. A few things worth flagging beyond what's in the file:

The Aragonese language of this letter is a nice reminder that the chancery code-switched systematically based on addressee — Aragonese for Aragonese municipalities, Catalan for Catalan ones, Latin for the papacy. The Latin *sub nuestro parvo sello secreto* embedded in the dating clause is a good example of how formulaic elements retained their Latin dress even in vernacular correspondence.

The date (25 March 1387) is interesting for the Incarnation/Nativity style question, which I flagged in footnote 7. If you have a sense of which style this register follows, that would resolve it cleanly.

And Pallerès is worth tracking — a royal councillor dispatched to Barbastro within the first few months of the reign suggests Joan I was actively managing the Aragonese towns during the succession, which fits the broader picture of consolidation you're working on.

Aca joani credence barbastro 1387 03 25

Document · MD

Want to be notified when Claude responds?

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