

ACA, Cancillería: Violant de Bar to Mossèn Francesch — Grant of Scrivanies of the Justiciate of Borja and Magallón

Document Summary

Field	Details
Archive	Arxiu de la Corona d'Aragó (ACA), Cancillería
Document type	Royal mandate (letter of command)
Sender	Queen Violant de Bar ("La Reyna")
Addressee	Mossèn Francesch (official at Borja/Magallón; surname not given)
Date	Barcelona, 28 March 1387
Language	Catalan
Subject	Command to install the procurador of Bernat Vilella — a member of the household of the Dauphin of Gerona — in possession of the notarial offices (scrivanies) attached to the Justiciate of the royal town and places of Borja and Magallón

Reconciled Transcription

La Reyna

Mossèn Francesch, nos havem donades les scriuanies dels justiciat de la vila e lochs nostres de Borja e de Magallon al fael nostre Bernat Vilella de casa de nostre molt car primogènit lo Dalfí de Gerona, segons que per tenor de les cartes de la dita concessió largament veurets. On, com lo dit Bernat de present nos pusque dar [?] per si, e per aquella rahó trameta aquí procurador per entrar en possessió dels dits officis, per ço volem e vos pregam e manam que lo procurador dit d'en Bernat en possessió de les dites scriuanies metre façats e aquelles regir per ell permetats, segons tenor de les dites cartes de les sues concessions demunt dites. Certificants vos que açò haurets nos per agradable e per consegüent [?] a nos ne farets servey lo qual molt vos grahirem. Dat en Barchinona en xxviii dies de Març del any Mil.ccc.lxxx set. [vidit deponem?] [?]

Domna Regina mandavit mihi Iacobo f[ernan...?] [?]

Annotated English Translation

The Queen.

Sir Francesch,¹ we have granted the notarial offices of the Justiciate² of the town and royal places of ours of Borja and Magallón³ to our faithful Bernat Vilella,⁴ of the household of our most dear firstborn the Dauphin of Gerona,⁵ as you will see at length by the tenor of the letters of the said concession. Now, since the said Bernat at present cannot appear [?] in person,⁶ and for that reason sends there a procurador to enter into possession of the said offices, therefore we wish, and we ask you, and we command that you cause the said procurador of the said Bernat to be put into possession of the said notarial offices, and that you permit him to administer them, according to the tenor of the said letters of his above-mentioned concessions. Certifying to you that you will have this as agreeable to us,⁷ and consequently [?] you will render us a service for which we shall be much grateful. Given at Barcelona on the 28th day of March of the year 1387.⁸

The Lady Queen commanded me, Jacobus F[ernan...?].⁹

Footnotes

Unresolved Ambiguities

1. **The verb in the "inability to appear" clause (line 5 of transcription):** Neither the initial transcription (*dar per si*) nor the HTR (*deia por*) is fully satisfactory. The meaning is clear from context — Bernat Vilella cannot come in person — but the exact verb form remains uncertain. Marked [?] in the reconciled transcription.
2. **"per consegüent" vs. "proseguit" (line 9):** The word or phrase connecting the assurance formula to the "service" clause could not be firmly resolved. I have tentatively read *per consegüent* (consequently), but *proseguit* (pursued, carried out) or another reading remains possible. Marked [?].
3. **Post-date notation:** The characters following the year in the dating clause could not be parsed with confidence. Possibilities include a *vidit* notation with a name (*depontem?*), a register filing note, or a scribal annotation. Marked [?].
4. **Scribe's surname:** The *iussio* clause identifies the scribe as *Iacobo* followed by an abbreviated surname. The most likely expansion is *Fernan[dez]* or *Fernan[di]*, but this could not be confirmed. Marked [?].
5. **Anachronistic title for Joan I:** Violant refers to Joan as *nostre molt car primogènit lo Dalí de Gerona* despite the letter being dated 28 March 1387, nearly three months after Joan's accession as king. This may indicate the underlying concession predates the accession, or it

may reflect chancery practice in referencing the original grant. The relationship between this letter and the underlying *cartes de concessió* it references warrants further archival investigation.

1. The addressee is identified only as "Mossèn Francesch," without a surname or title of office. In context, he appears to be a local royal official (possibly the *justícia*, *batlle*, or other officer) in the Borja–Magallón district with authority to install the new officeholder. ↵
2. *Scrivanies dels justiciat*: the notarial offices or clerkships attached to the court of the *Justícia* — the royal judge — in these towns. These were revenue-generating offices typically granted as patronage, since the holder collected fees for notarial services performed before the *Justícia*'s tribunal. The grant is of the *scrivanies* specifically, not of the *Justiciate* itself. ↵
3. Borja and Magallón are towns in western Aragon (modern province of Zaragoza), both held as royal places (*lochs nostres*) under the Crown. Their pairing under a single grant of *scrivanies* suggests a unified judicial district. ↵
4. Bernat Vilella. The name appears abbreviated in the manuscript as *Bn Vilella*. He is identified as a member of the household (*de casa de*) of the Dauphin of Gerona, which positions him within the entourage of the heir to the throne. His precise office or status within the Dauphin's household is not specified here; further prosopographic investigation may clarify his identity. ↵
5. Joan, Duke of Gerona, here styled by the French title *Dalfí de Gerona* — a usage reflecting the strong French cultural influence at the Aragonese court. At the date of this letter (28 March 1387), Joan had already succeeded his father Pere III (who died on 5 January 1387) and was reigning as Joan I. Violant's continued use of the title *primogènit* and *Dalfí de Gerona* rather than *Rey* is noteworthy. This could indicate that the concession was originally made before Joan's accession and is here being communicated or enforced after the fact; alternatively, it may reflect the date of the original grant letter being referenced rather than present circumstances. This point merits further investigation in relation to the dating of the underlying concession documents. ↵
6. The verb phrase following *de present nos pusque* is uncertain. The sense is clearly that Bernat Vilella cannot present himself in person at Borja/Magallón, hence the appointment of a procurador. The exact reading of the verb — possibly *dar per si* (present himself), *venir personalment*, or another construction — could not be resolved with full confidence from the manuscript. ↵
7. *Certificants vos que açò haurets nos per agradable*: a standard assurance formula in Violant's correspondence, effectively meaning "rest assured that we will consider this [your compliance] agreeable." ↵

8. The dating clause reads *Dat en Barchinona en xxviii dies de Març del any Mil.ccc.lxxx set.* Following the date, the manuscript contains a notation that could not be fully resolved — possibly a registration mark (*vidit* + a name?) or scribal annotation. See Unresolved Ambiguities below. ↩
9. The *iussio* clause reads *Domna Regina mandavit mihi Iacobo f[...].* The scribe identifies himself as *Jacobus* (Jaume) followed by what appears to be the beginning of a surname, possibly *Fernan[dez]* or *Fernan[di]*. The full name could not be confirmed from this manuscript alone. ↩