

## Claude Opus 4.6

March 27, 2026

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

I have another letter in Catalan from 1387, written in fourteenth century Gothic Secretarial hand. Please do your best to transcribe for Stage 1.

5:03 PM

Wrestled with medieval Catalan paleography and diplomatic formulas

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I can see the image clearly. Let me work through this carefully.

This is a letter from Queen Violant de Bar ("La Reyna"), in Catalan, addressed to a "Mossèn ffrancès." It concerns an office grant in Borja and Magallón. Let me produce the Stage 1 transcription line by line.

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**Document type:** Royal mandate / letter of command regarding entry into possession of offices **Sender:** Queen Violant de Bar ("La Reyna") **Addressee:** Mossèn ffrancès (surname unclear — possibly an official in the Borja/Magallón area) **Date:** Barcelona, 28 March [1387] **Language:** Catalan

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### Stage 1 Transcription

La Reyna

Mossèn ffrancès nos hauem donats lo sinament [?] dels Justaçat [?] de la vila e locs nres de Borja de Magalló al fael nre en Vilella de casa de nre molt car e primogènit lo dalí de Gerona segons [?] que per tenor de les carts de la dita concessió largament veurets. On com lo dit En a present nos pusque dar per si [?] e per aquella rahó trameta aquí procurador per entrar en possessió dels dits officis per ço vol[em] e a nos plau e manam que lo procurador del dit En en possessió de les dites sinaments [?] nos façats e aquelles regir per vos substituïnts [?] rega [?] tenor de les dites carts de les sues concessions dessus [?] dites certifi- cants nos que açò haurets nos per agradable e per consegüent a nos ne farets

servey [?] lo qual molt nos grahirem [?]. Dat en Barchinona en a xxviii dies de Març del any Mil.ccc.lxxx[vij?]. [Gert?] fo de pone[r] [?]

Dna Yolç [?] ma[n]d[avi]t Jacobo fy.

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### Uncertain Readings and Commentary

**"sinament" (line 2) and "sinaments" (line 7):** This is the most problematic word in the document. I suspect it is a clipped or variant form of *assignment* (assignment/grant), which would make good sense in context: "We have given the assignment of the Justiciate of the town..." But I cannot confirm this reading paleographically with full confidence. It could also be a variant of *signament* (designation). Flagged for Stage 2.

**"Justaçat" (line 2):** Almost certainly refers to the office of *Justícia* — the Justiciate — but the exact orthographic form is uncertain. The word could also read *Justaat* or *Justaçiat*.

**"segons" (line 4):** I initially considered *reys* but *segons* makes far better grammatical sense: "segons que per tenor de les carts de la dita concessió largament veurets" = "as you will see at length by the tenor of the letters of the said concession."

**"dar per si" (line 5):** Reading *dar per si* = "to present himself / appear in person." The construction explains why a procurador is being sent instead.

**"vol[em] e a nos plau e manam" (line 6):** Standard triple mandate formula — "we wish, and it pleases us, and we command." The abbreviation on *volem* is partially obscured.

**"substituïnts rega tenor" (lines 7–8):** Difficult. I read *substituïnts* (substitutes/deputies) but the connecting word before *tenor* is unclear — possibly *rega* or *rege* (by rule of?), or perhaps *segons* again.

**"dessús dites" (line 8):** My best reading for what appears to be an "aforesaid" formula, but the first element is compressed and could read *dejús* or *damunt*.

**"servey" / "fruyt" (line 9):** The word before "lo qual" is unclear. I read *servey* (service) but *fruyt* (fruit, i.e., benefit) is also possible.

**"grahirem" (line 10):** "We shall be grateful" — could also be *grahirets* (you will be grateful), but the first person plural fits the epistolary context better.

**Date (line 11):** The year reads *Mil.ccc.lxxx* clearly, but the final element needed to reach 1387 (*vij*) is compressed and runs into what appears to be a register note. The characters after the year — what I tentatively read as *Gert fo de pone[r]* — may be a filing/delivery

notation ("was to be deposited/delivered") or possibly a scribal name, but I cannot parse it with confidence.

**Iussio (lines 12–13):** "Dna [= Domina] Yol[?] ma[n]d[avi]t / Jacobo fy." The queen's name appears abbreviated — possibly *Yol[andi]s* (Latin form of Violant/Yolande) or possibly *V[iolant]is*. "Jacobo fy" is likely the scribe's name or mark: *Jacobo f[eci]t* or *Jacobo* followed by a surname abbreviation.

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**Summary of content:** Queen Violant de Bar writes to Mossèn ffrancès informing him that she has granted the offices of the Justiciate in the town and royal places (*locs nostres*) of Borja and Magallón to a certain "en Vilella," a member of the household (*de casa*) of the Dauphin of Gerona (i.e., the primogenit). Since the said En Vilella cannot appear in person at present, he is sending a procurador. The Queen commands Mossèn ffrancès to put the procurador into possession of the offices and to allow him (or his substitutes) to administer them according to the letters of concession. She assures him that she will consider this agreeable and will be grateful.

Ready for Stage 2 whenever you have the HTR output.

Here is the other HTR output for Stage 2: La Reyna Moss[en] Francesch, nos have[m] donades les scriuanies de[l]s justiciat de la vila e lochs n[ost]res de Borja e de Magallon al fiel n[ost]re Bon Vilella p[er] causa de n[ost]re molt car p[ri]mogenit lo Dalfi de Gerona, segons q[ue] p[er] tenor de[le]s cartes d[e]la dita concessio largam[en]t veurets. On, co[m] lo dit Bon ap[ar]ent nos pusque deia por, e p[er] aq[ue]lla raho trameta aqui lo p[ro]curador p[er] entrar en posse[ssió] de[l]s dits officis, p[er] co vole[m] e vos p[re]ga[m] e mana[m] q[ue] lo p[ro]curador d[i]t d'e[n] Bon en posse[ssió] de les dites scriuanies met[re] facats e aq[ue]lles regir p[er] ell p[er]metats, segons tenor de[le]s dites cartes de les sues concessio d[e]mu[n]t dites. Certiffi- cants vos q[ue] aço haurets nos p[er] agradable e p[ro]seguit, a nos ne farets s[er]juey lo qual molt vos grahirem. Dat en Barcelona en XXVIII dies de Març el any .Mil. CCC. LXXX. set. v[idet] depontem D[om]na Regina ma[ndavit] m[ihi] Iacobo f[ernan]

Show more

5:13 PM

Systematically reconciled manuscript transcription against HTR output through paleographic analysis

Systematically reconciled manuscript transcription against HTR output through paleographic analysis

Thank you. The HTR output is substantially better than my Stage 1 reading on several key points. Let me work through the reconciliation systematically, returning to the manuscript image to adjudicate.

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## Stage 2 Reconciliation

### (A) Where HTR Corrects Claude

**1. "scriuanies" for my "sinament/sinaments"** HTR is clearly correct. The word is *scriuanies* (*scrivanies* = notarial offices / clerkships of the court). This makes far better sense: the queen is granting the *scrivanies dels justiciat* — the notarial offices attached to the Justiciate — not the Justiciate itself. My reading was forced; the manuscript's long-*s + c + r* cluster is what I misread as *si + n*. Accepted.

**2. "donades les scriuanies" for my "donats lo sinament"** Follows from (1). The feminine plural *donades* agrees with *scriuanies*. My masculine singular *donats* was inconsistent. Accepted.

**3. "Bon Vilella" for my "en Vilella"** HTR reads the beneficiary's given name as *Bon*. Returning to the image, I can see a clear capital *B* followed by what I initially took as the pronoun *en*. *Bon Vilella* is more plausible as a complete name. Accepted, though the name is unusual — worth verifying prosopographically.

**4. "e de Magallon" for my "de Magalló"** HTR correctly reads the conjunction *e de* between Borja and Magallón. Standard phrasing for listing two jurisdictions. Accepted.

**5. "volem e vos pregam e manam" for my "vol[em] e a nos plau e manam"** The triple formula *volem e vos pregam e manam* (we wish, we ask you, and we command) is the more common variant in Violant's Catalan correspondence. Returning to the image, I can see *vos pregam* fits the letter forms better than my *a nos plau*. Accepted.

**6. "metre façats" for my "nos façats"** HTR is clearly right. The causative construction *metre façats* = "that you cause [him] to be put [into possession]" is standard. My reading dropped the verb *metre*, which left the clause grammatically incomplete. Accepted.

**7. "per ell permetats" for my "per vos substituïnts"** HTR makes much better sense: "and that you permit him to administer them." My reading *per vos substituïnts* was a stretch paleographically and created an awkward syntax. Accepted.

**8. "segons tenor" for my "rega tenor"** HTR is correct. *Segons tenor de les dites cartes* is a standard formula. My *rega* was a failed attempt at a compressed passage. Accepted.

9. **"demunt dites" for my "dessús dites"** Both are synonymous ("aforesaid"), but returning to the image, *demunt* fits the letter forms better. Accepted.

10. **".set." for the year** HTR reads the final element of the date as *set* (Catalan "seven"), confirming the year as 1387. This resolves my uncertain reading. Accepted.

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## (B) Where Claude's Reading Is Preferred

1. **"per causa de nostre molt car primogènit" vs. "de casa de nostre molt car primogènit"** This is genuinely difficult. HTR reads *per causa de* ("on account of"), while I read *de casa de* ("of the household of"). Returning to the image: the letter forms in this cluster are ambiguous, but the contextual sense matters. *Per causa de nostre molt car primogènit* would mean the grant was made "on account of" or "at the behest of" the Dauphin — which is a reasonable reading, implying the Dauphin recommended the appointment. *De casa de* would identify Vilella as a member of the Dauphin's household. Both are defensible. I **slightly prefer HTR's *per causa de*** on re-examination, as it better explains why the Dauphin's involvement is mentioned at all. **Revised: HTR preferred**, though this remains uncertain.

2. **"Barchinona" vs. "Barcelona"** This is an orthographic point. Returning to the image, the manuscript clearly shows the chancery Latin form *Barchinona*, not the vernacular *Barcelona*. HTR has normalized. Claude's reading preserved. **Claude preferred.**

3. **"a present nos pusque" / passage about inability to appear** Neither reading is fully satisfactory for this clause. My "a present nos pusque dar per si" and HTR's "aparent nos pusque deia por" both struggle. The intended sense is clearly: "Since the said Bon [Vilella] at present cannot [appear/come] in person." I believe *de present* or *a present* (at present) is correct for the temporal adverb, and the verb phrase likely reads something like *venir personalment* or *dar per si* (present himself). HTR's *aparent* could be a misparse of *a present*. HTR's *deia por* is not convincing. **Tentatively prefer a hybrid: "de present nos pusque dar [?] per si."** Flagged for further review.

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## (C) Where Both Remain Uncertain

1. **The verb phrase in the "inability to appear" clause (line 5)** As noted above, neither reading fully resolves this passage. The sense is clear from context, but the exact verb remains uncertain.

**2. "e proseguit" / "e per consegüent" (line 9)** I read *per consegüent* (consequently); HTR reads *proseguit* (pursued/carried out). Returning to the image, I now think this might actually read *e per consegüent* or possibly *e per proseguir* — but neither is certain. The clause means something like "and [consequently / by pursuing this], you will do us a service." Flagged [?].

**3. The chancery notation after the date (line 11)** I read *Gert fo de poner*; HTR reads *videt depontem*. Neither parses cleanly. This may be a register note in Latin indicating the document was seen or deposited (*vidit + deponentem?*), or possibly a scribal name + notation. Flagged [?].

**4. The iussio clause (lines 12–13)** HTR reads *Domna Regina mandavit mihi Iacobo fernan[...]*. My reading was *Dna Yolg mandavit / Iacobo fy*. Returning to the image, I can see *Dna* clearly. What follows could be *Regina* (abbreviated) or *Violg* — HTR's *Regina* is the more standard iussio formula. For the scribe's name, HTR's *Iacobo fernan[...]* (i.e., Jacobo Fernán[dez]) is plausible — my *fy* could be an abbreviation for such a surname. **Tentatively accept HTR's expansion**, but the scribe's full surname remains uncertain.

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## (D) 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 Bon Vilella per causa de nostre molt car primogènit lo Dalí de Gerona, segons que per tenor de les cartes de la dita concessió largament veurets. On, com lo dit Bon 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 Bon en possessió de les dites scriuanies metre fets 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 gahirem. Dat en Barchinona en xxviii dies de Març del any Mil.ccc.lxxx set. [vidit depontem?] [?]

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

### Confidence levels:

- High confidence: ~85% of the document, including the central mandate, the names, date, and formulae
- Medium confidence: *per causa de* vs. *de casa de*; *per consegüent* vs. *proseguit*

- Low confidence: the verb in the "inability to appear" clause; the post-date notation; the scribe's full surname

Ready for Stage 3 whenever you'd like, or if you want to discuss any of these readings further first.

In line 3 the word is "casa" not "causa." The Bn abbreviation is for Bernat, not Bon. So the person's name is Bernat Vilella and he is "of the house of our most dear primogenit..." With those corrections please proceed to Stage 3.

5:16 PM

Incorporated corrections and advanced to final stage

Incorporated corrections and advanced to final stage

Good catches — *Bn* for *Bernat* is of course standard, and *de casa de* makes the passage a straightforward household identification rather than a causal clause. That settles both readings cleanly. Let me produce the Stage 3 deliverable.

Acknowledged corrections and prepared for next stage

Acknowledged corrections and prepared for next stage

Here's the Stage 3 deliverable. A couple of things I'd flag for your attention:

The most interesting point is footnote 5 — Violant's use of *primogènit* and *Dalfí de Gerona* for Joan nearly three months after his accession. This could be a straightforward case of the chancery referencing the title Joan held when the underlying concession was originally granted, but it's worth tracking whether this pattern appears in other letters from Violant in this period, since it could also say something about how her chancery framed her authority relative to Joan's during the transitional months.

The four unresolved readings are all peripheral to the document's substance — the core mandate and its political content are clear. The verb in the "inability to appear" clause is the most annoying of the lot, since it's right in the middle of the *dispositio*, but the meaning is unambiguous from context.

Aca violantdebar scrivanies borja magallon 1387 03 28

Document · MD

Want to be notified when Claude responds?

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