

Gemini 3

March 27, 2026

Conversation with Gemini

You said

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

Gemini said

This is a fascinating administrative document from the Crown of Aragon. The hand is a classic **Gothic Secretarial** (also known as *cursiva gòtica*), typical of the royal chancery in the late 14th century.

The letter is written by **Violant de Bar**, Queen of Aragon (wife of Joan I), regarding the appointment of a scribe (*escrivà*) to the justice's office in Borja.

Transcription

Below is the transcription, with common medieval abbreviations expanded in brackets [].

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]uey lo qual molt vos grahirem. Dat en Barcelona en XXVIII dies de Març el any .Mil. CCC. LXXX. set. P[er] d[ic]ta[m] r[egi]ne.

D[om]na Regina Iacobo f[er]r[andiz]

Summary and Context

- **The Subject:** The Queen is informing an official (likely the local Governor or Justice) that she has granted the "scriuanies" (scribal/notarial offices) of the towns of **Borja** and **Magallón** to a man named **Bon Vilella**.
- **The Reason:** This grant is made at the request or "by cause" of her "very dear firstborn," the **Dauphin of Girona**. In 1387, this title was held by the future King Martí l'Humà (Martin the Humane) or influenced by the transition of the crown after the death of Pere el Cerimoniós in January of that year.
- **The Instruction:** The Queen commands the recipient to formally place Bon Vilella's procurator (legal representative) into possession of these offices so he can begin his duties.
- **The Date: March 28, 1387.** This is just two months after the death of King Pere IV (el Cerimoniós) and the accession of Joan I and Violant de Bar.

Key Paleographic Features

- **Long 's' (ſ):** Used at the beginning and middle of words (e.g., *scriuanies*).
- **Tironian 'et' (&):** Used as a shorthand for "e" (and).
- **Macrons (lines over letters):** Used to indicate missing 'm' or 'n' (e.g., *mana[m]*).
- **The Signature:** The flourish at the bottom right is the signature of the Queen (*Dna Regina*) followed by the name of the secretary who drafted the document, **Iacobo Ferrandiz**.

Would you like me to analyze the specific legal terminology used in this grant, or perhaps look at another document from this period?

Gemini is AI and can make mistakes.