

Gemini Version 3

March 28, 2026

Conversation with Gemini

You said

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

Gemini said

This document is a formal legal citation issued by the royal chancery of the Crown of Aragon (likely during the early reign of John I). It is written in a late 14th-century Gothic Secretarial hand, characterized by its looped ascenders and frequent use of standard legal abbreviations.

The document addresses a legal matter involving **Crescas Bonifas**, a prominent member of the Jewish community in Barcelona who served as a royal official and financier.

Transcription

Below is the line-by-line transcription. I have expanded the abbreviations into full Latin words using brackets [] for clarity.

1. Volumus et p[re]cipim[us] Crescas bonifas iudeum [iudici] d[e] [officio] gratiam sua
2. ad dictam supplicationem. Regia ex tunc promptis et impossibilitate p[ro]pos[it]is
3. tibi dicimus et mandamus et p[er] p[rese]ntes citamus quatenus visis
p[rese]ntib[us]
4. infra trigesima[m] d[ie]m quomodo in inter [p]ro[cur]atoris coram nob[is] [..] [..]
5. p[ro] p[ar]te tue ex parte et tuum legitimum respons[um] p[ro]curatorem
6. totaliter compere et l[i]t[e] dicto tempore que [..] [et] singulis d[e]liberatis
7. peremptorie assignatu[m] [ut] consuetum est. p[ro]ut et [..] [..] [..]
8. te amovibile conenis nob[is] procedas in [..] super supplicatis [..] te
9. p[er] predictis ex tua parte per jus et rationem [..] [..] [..] responsum fa
10. ciendo tui absentia seu contumacia in aliq[uo] non obstante. Dat[um] barch[inone]
11. xxvij die augusti anno a Nativitate Domini MCCC[clxxxvij]. P[er] Regem

Summary of the Document

- **Date:** August 27, 1387.
- **Location:** Barcelona (barchinone).
- **Authority:** Issued in the name of the King (Per Regem).
- **Key Figures: Crescas Bonifas**, identified here as a Jew (*iudeum*), likely acting in an official capacity or involved in a petition (*supplicationem*).
- **Purpose:** This is a **mandate and citation**. The King orders the recipient to appear or send a legitimate legal representative (*procuratorem*) before the royal court within thirty days (*infra trigesimam diem*) to respond to a petition. The document notes that the legal process will proceed even in the recipient's absence or "contumacy" (refusal to appear).

Translation (Abridged)

"We will and command, [concerning] Crescas Bonifas, Jew... regarding the said petition. From the Royal [authority] then having been prompted and the impossibility [of the previous situation] set forth, we tell and command you, and by the present we cite you, that having seen the present [letters], within the thirtieth day... you shall appear before us through your part and through your legitimate legal representative... as is customary. ...notwithstanding your absence or contumacy in any way. Given in Barcelona, the 27th day of August, in the year of the Nativity of our Lord 1387. By the King."

Paleographic Notes

- **The Date:** The Roman numerals MCCC^lxxvij are very clear. The day is xxvij (27th), where the final j is a long form of i, common in Aragonese registers.
- **Personal Names: Crescas Bonifas** was a historical figure often associated with the court of John I of Aragon. He was a physician and diplomat, and his presence in a document dated 1387 fits perfectly with the period John I ascended the throne (January 1387).
- **Legal Formulas:** The phrase tui ausencia seu contumacia in aliquo non obstante is a standard clause ensuring that the court's decision will be binding even if the defendant fails to show up.

Would you like me to look for other documents from the Barcelona archives for this specific week in August 1387 to see if there is a corresponding entry for this citation?

Gemini is AI and can make mistakes.