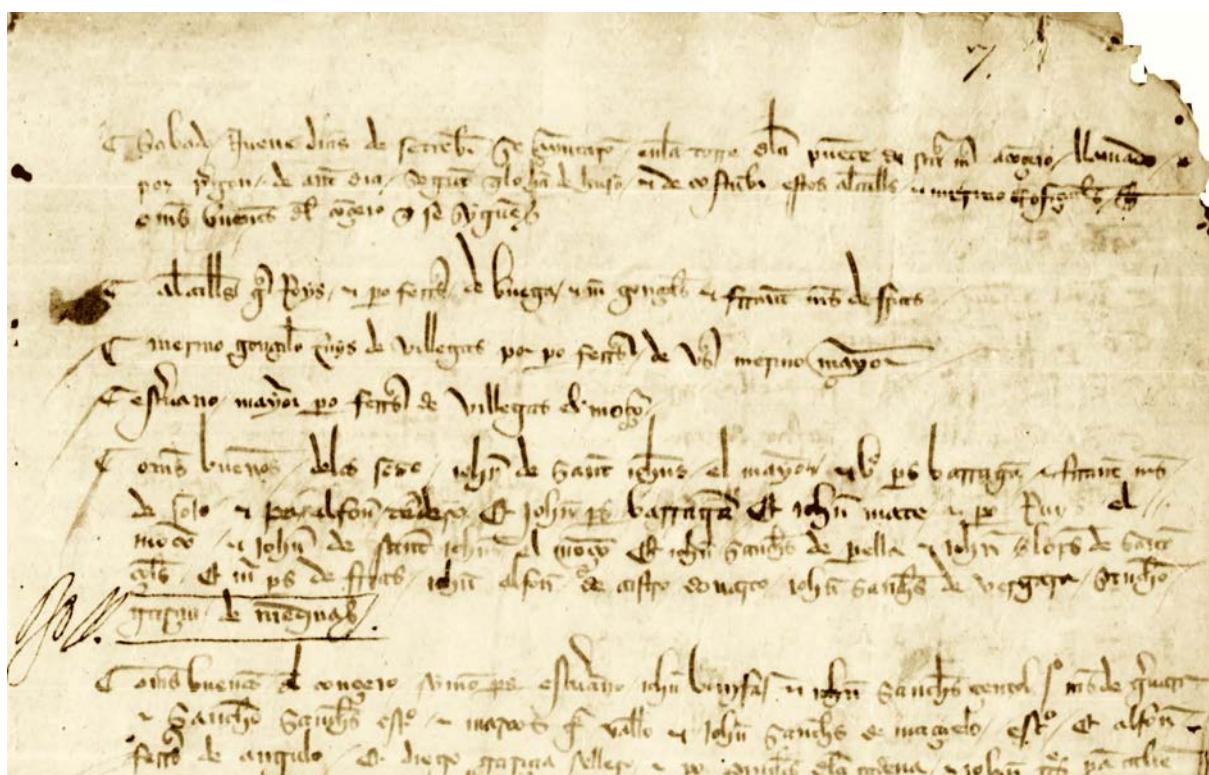


Deciphering Secrets Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)



14th Century Spanish Paleography Manual V1.0

Archivo Municipal de Burgos, Libro de Actas Municipales “Año 1391 y 1392”, LA-2

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15 February 2018



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This project has received funding from the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, the European Union’s Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement nº 600371, el Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad (COFUND2013-51509) and Banco Santander. The University of Colorado-Colorado Springs and the University of Colorado System have provided supplemental funding.

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Introductory Paleography: A Script from the 14th Century

What is Paleography?

Merriam-Webster dictionary offers two useful definitions of the term, "[paleography](#)". The two definitions of this word are:

- the study of ancient writings and inscriptions and
- an ancient manner of writing; ancient writings.

We can then appreciate that the term is both (1) the academic investigation of older forms of handwriting as well as (2) the actual handwriting itself. For our purposes, we will use the term "paleography" to describe the process of interpreting and recognizing letters and numbers in our primary sources (the manuscripts).

As a historian of medieval Europe, my approach to paleography is one focused on the pragmatic techniques used to read text. While I appreciate the beauty and details of the calligraphy, in general, I view paleography as a tool.

We begin our study of 14th Spanish handwriting from the *Book of Municipal Acts* of the City of Burgos (Spain) for the years 1391 and 1392 CE. The text is named "Archivo Municipal de Burgos (AMB), Libro de Actas Municipales Año 1391 y 1392", LA-2". Municipal acts typically include a record of the official actions, letters, orders, contracts, key personalities, and activities of the king's councilmen (regidores). LA-2 is 38 folios (two-sided pages) in length and can be viewed online at:

<http://archivo.aytoburgos.es/burgos/doc?q=actas+municipales&start=1&rows=1&sort=fecha%20asc&fq=media&fv=%20&fo=and#>

From volume LA-2 we will study folios 1 recto, 1 verso, 7 recto, and 18 recto. Many of the folios of LA-2 are heavily deteriorated and therefore present an excellent opportunity to pursue paleographic interpretation under the most challenging of circumstances.

Donostia
el dario y el alcalde de Donostia se pala vñ mes e 1621 mandó q
metra e la fábrica de los señores del consejo de su Señor el rey don vñzquez de cárdenas
bendicente q el quinto de octubre al maestre de Alcañiz q les
expediese
acordado q se haga en
la villa de San Sebastián
el año de 1621
y díos

En sucesos ante de mi en los Señores y los dichos señores del capitulo
que se oye en este mes de enero año de 1500 d'la Vngre. El asunto es de la
que pase de Villanueva en el anno mayor. Y que nro Señor oiga bueno los
dichos pacientes todos que les faltan algunas costumbres y excede de la
edad de siete de diez y el Rey nro Señor. Y p'cable el príncipe este
anno. Por lo q' nos p'edimos por. Nro Señor. Que quede de todo lo q' se diga
y lo q' creyese. El Rey pone en todo bien el concordia. Y en
consejo entre estos señores por este Reyno sea esejecuado pa
sugir al Rey d' sp'. Eseñora m'dre en los dichos

*... Galad fuene vins de serreto. Se soncaren enta terra sta puerre se pue en aguado
per regen de aña dia, despues calentada la bosa, se de costumbre estos atulle en mazuras desfondados
en embuadas de aguado o se aguado.*

atatis p' p's, i' po f'nd' & bugga u' m' genet' & f'rm' m' d' f'nt'
merne genet' r'gs de Villegas po po f'nd' & v' m' p'no Mayo
& estuano manor po f'nd' & Villegas d' modo

et omnes uenient uero sicut uir de gaudiis regis et maior regis ipso battaglia etiam uite
de solo et paralipomeno redemptor. Et iohannes ipso battaglia. Et iohannes uite et ipso pax
et uoce et iohannes de sancto iohanne et iohannes et iohannes amico de pella. iohannes electio de eata
acte. Et in ipso de fletis iohannes aspergunt de nostro conuictu iohannes sanguis de uergogna. Et iohannes
genuis. In medietate.

et obviamente concilio anno p[ro]ximo etiam ioh[annes] brynsas et ioh[annes] sancti eugenii s[an]cti de gaudiis
- sancte sancto est - magister p[ro]p[ter]a vello et ioh[annes] sancte et magister est et alio
s[an]cto le angulo d[omi]ni diego garcia sellas - p[er] dominum etiam milena - ioh[annes] p[ro]p[ter]a vello
de vimego n[on] de regis et ioh[annes] dela mora ioh[annes] et alio s[an]cto le sancte galvadon
et ioh[annes] arbiudor fons ioh[annes] de quiceno et alio s[an]cto p[ro]p[ter]a vello et alio
de lalinde et ioh[annes] garcia de logro ioh[annes] de la conga et p[er] dominum de gaudia dueñas
- heynal p[ro]p[ter]a tenepero et alio s[an]cto ioh[annes] maledor in g[ra]m p[er] plamero et alio s[an]cto
ferrero - anno sancte p[er]petuae et ioh[annes] ferrero de amedeo et p[er] p[ro]p[ter]a de valle
vidso et ioh[annes] p[ro]p[ter]a amedae et g[ra]m lop[er]o sellas et ioh[annes] gomarico de sante in
est - et ioh[annes] ferrero - frangstro p[ro]p[ter]a alba et ioh[annes] alfonso maledor gomarico p[ro]p[ter]
est ioh[annes] ferrero stros volvist ioh[annes] ferrero et alio s[an]cto p[er] p[ro]p[ter]a de amadeo sancte annae de
volvist et alio s[an]cto de amadeo ferrero mo de eglesia oriente ioh[annes] alfonso de amadeo et alio
maledor et alio s[an]cto de s[an]cto alfonso et alio s[an]cto de amadeo anno mo de amadeo ioh[annes] lop[er]
ferrero lop[er] etiam ioh[annes] alfonso lop[er] de amadeo et ioh[annes] p[er] p[ro]p[ter]a infestus ioh[annes]
de gloriosa in alfonso de asturie sonapero ioh[annes] gomarico de corral alfonso ferrero vello
gomarico diego ferrero et alio s[an]cto p[er] int de amadeo et alio lop[er] est p[er] p[ro]p[ter]a marie s[an]cte
ganga et alio lop[er] de malmunus et alio s[an]cto de logro ioh[annes] p[ro]p[ter]a agnes s[an]cte
garcia de sante et alio diego lop[er] de perez ioh[annes] p[ro]p[ter]a p[er] p[ro]p[ter]a et alio garcia
et alio gomarico est p[ro]p[ter]a appeler et ad et p[er] p[ro]p[ter] ioh[annes] alfonso de leales ioh[annes] alfonso p[er] de
sevilla appeler et bestiar ioh[annes] int ruy de ioh[annes] s[an]cto de opere alfonso p[er] de
gomez amadeo et p[er] p[ro]p[ter] vello alfonso p[er] de vello et alio s[an]cto amadeo

18.

afios con los larios a la villa de burgos por la gracia de los dñs srs papa el trey foso
el ffrige enta diligencia año de mss, en 1392.

o sum loquente nubr dñs p ffris
de burgos, j^o mch

p simo g ^o delalo		12
p ffris de burgos el mayor	j	12
p mayor el mayo	j	12
p ffris ms de iglesia galana	j	12
l dñs p ^o leon	-	12
p jehu mch	-	12
p jehu leop de sanz gato	-	12
p ffris camagge	-	12
p alfon ^o g ^o cuenca	-	12
p j ^o ms de galisano	-	12
p j ^o sc de signa	v	12
p j ^o mayor atcall	-	12
p alfon ^o rendeo	-	12
p ffrans ms de pgo	-	12
p jehu de sanz juan el mayo	-	12
p berrolome p ^o leon	-	12
p lope g ^o lorenzo de s ^o delalo	-	12
p bonifac	-	12
p jehu g ^o lorenzo de g ^o p ^o est	-	12
p alfon ^o ffris de valdeyes	-	12
p j ^o sancho de g ^o baltar	-	12
p diego ffris de fras	-	12
p j ^o de sanz jehu el mayor	v	12
p g ^o rendeo	-	12
p diego ms de santo d ^o	-	12
p m ^o ms de vallmolas	-	12
p ffrans g ^o rendeo	-	12
p ffris de leon	-	12
p g ^o ffris de leon	-	12
p berrolome p ^o rendeo	-	12
p ffrans ms quiceno	-	12
p g ^o g ^o rendeo	-	12
p g ^o ffris rendeo	-	12
p amro ms su g ^o miana	-	12

calendario gregoriano

o mabernat^o j^o s^o de p^o bellaz

p po alfonso	-	12
p g ^o lope selego	-	12
p berrolome p ^o cabrador	-	12
p g ^o ffris cabrador	-	12
p j ^o sancho de pella	-	12
p alfon ^o g ^o trans agmo	-	12
p amero	-	12
p rodrigo	-	12
p alfon ^o	-	12
p per elias	-	12
p j ^o g ^o est ^o	-	12
p ximo p ^o pintor	-	12
p ffrans g ^o ffris de quedanoch	-	12
p j ^o g ^o cabrador	-	12
p g ^o g ^o regno de p ^o s ^o	-	12
p muiga	-	12
p uo de p ^o parada	-	12

o mabernat^o m^o g^o j^o ms

p m ^o g ^o atcall	-	12
p ffrans g ^o m ^o m ^o d ^o	-	12
p j ^o ms bagiles	-	12
p j ^o sancho de la cadena	-	12
p j ^o de cuelas	-	12
p j ^o a de leot	-	12
p g ^o g ^o	-	12
p j ^o ffris domedador	-	12
p j ^o de carapana	-	12
p ffrans g ^o de leon	-	12
p diego g ^o domedador	-	12

o huerto del rey

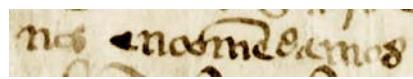
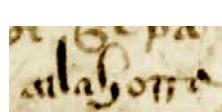
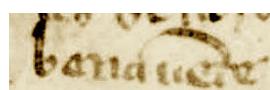
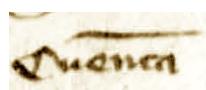
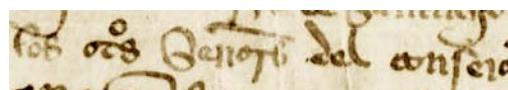
p ha de mabernat ^o g ^o demes	-	12
p diego g ^o de medina	-	12
p alfon ^o de leon	-	12
p ffrans g ^o de camagge	-	12
p g ^o p ^o de camagge	-	12

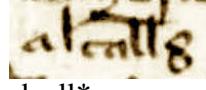
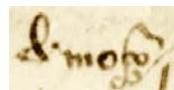
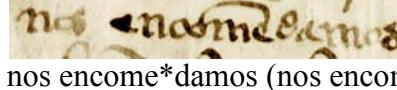
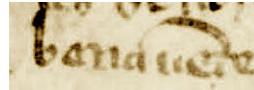
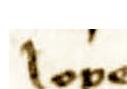
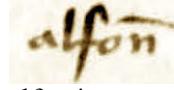
14th Century Letters (Consonants and Vowels)

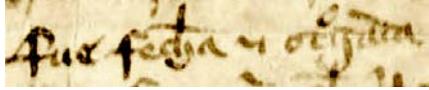
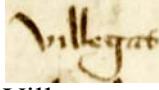
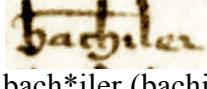
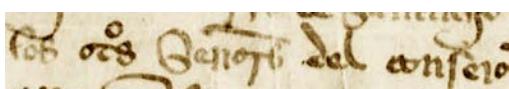
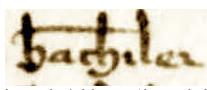
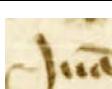
Let us familiarize ourselves with the alphabet. Please review this collection of letters so that you can begin to learn some of the peculiarities of the script. Lowercase letters are used most often as opposed to uppercase letters.

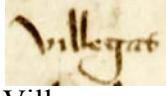
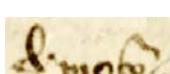
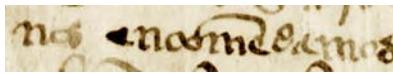
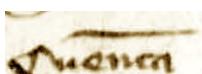
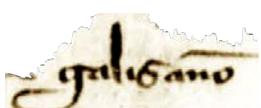
Not all letters and numerals can be found in these documents. When possible, missing lowercase items are supplemented with ones from Muñoz y Rivero, Jesus. *Manual de Paleografía Diplomática Española de los Siglos XII al XVII*. Madrid: Tipolit L. Faure, 1917. (This text is in the public domain.)

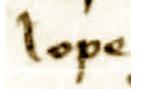
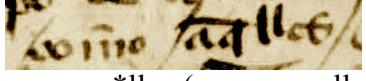
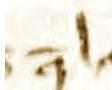
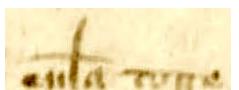
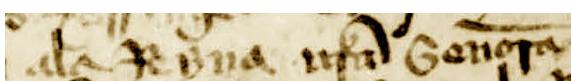
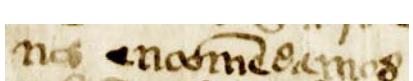
Note: * are used to denote the approximate location of abbreviation notations. Abbreviated words are spelled-out and reported in parenthesis.

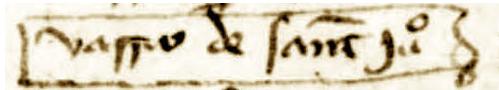
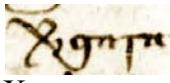
Letter	Individual Sample	Sample Within Word
a		 nos encome*damos (nos encomendamos)  calahora  alfon* (alfonso)
b		 benaue*te (benauente)  bartolome
C c		 Cuenca  los ot*s Señores del conseio (los otros Señores del conseio)

Letter	Individual Sample	Sample Within Word
c	  co (letters connected)	 alcald*s (alcalldes)  et marcos g* de sedrano (et marcos gomes de sedrano)
ç	 	 arçob*po de toledo (arçobispo de toledo)  el moço
d	  	 nos encome*damos (nos encomendamos)  c*idad (ciudad)  cadena
e	 	 benauen*te (benauente)  lope
f		 alfon* (alfonso)

Letter	Individual Sample	Sample Within Word
f		 fue fech*a et ot*gada (fue fechada et otorgada)
g	  	 galisano  a dos dias de agosto  Villegas
h		 bach*iler (bachiller)
I i	  	 Infant* (Infante)  los ot*s Señores del consejo (los otros Señores del consejo)  bach*iler (bachiller)
J j	 	 Jua* (Juan)  Juderia

Letter	Individual Sample	Sample Within Word
j		 Joh*ns (Johannes) J is also synonymous with I (See I - conseio or consejo)
k	No sample	No sample
l	 	 Villegas  el mayor
m	 	 al maestre de alcantara* (al maestre de alcantara)  el moço
n	 	 nos encomendamos* (nos encomendamos)  Cuenca
o	 	 entre los señor*s (entre los señores)  galisano

Letter	Individual Sample	Sample Within Word
p		 pidimos  lope
q		 como aq*llos (como aquellos)  q* la (que la)
R r		 a la Reyna nr*a Señora (a la Reyna nuestra Señora)  carta de poder  enla torre
S s		 Sant* (Sancte)  a la Reyna nr*a Señora (a la Reyna nuestra Señora)  nos encomendamos (nos encomendamos)

Letter	Individual Sample	Sample Within Word
t		 tresientos  entre los señor*s (entre los señores)  tendero
u		 fue fech*a et ot*gada (fue fechada et otorgada)  Ju* (Juan)
v		 v*ra mc*ed (vuestra merced)  varo* de sant* ju* (Varon de Sancte Juan)
w	No sample	No sample
x		 Xgara
y		 en q* ayan (en que ayan)

Letter	Individual Sample	Sample Within Word
y		 merino mayor
z	No sample	

14th Century Numbers (Roman Numerals)

Many Roman numerals appear on Folio 18 recto. However, not all numerals are found in ACB Registro 6 Folio 83 recto. The missing items and other variations are supplemented with ones from Muñoz y Rivero, Jesus. *Manual de Paleografía Diplomática Española de los Siglos XII al XVII*. Madrid: Tipolit L. Faure, 1917. These numerals are displayed below.

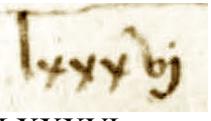
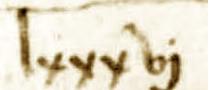
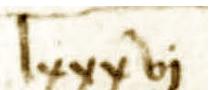
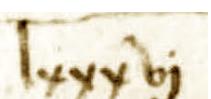
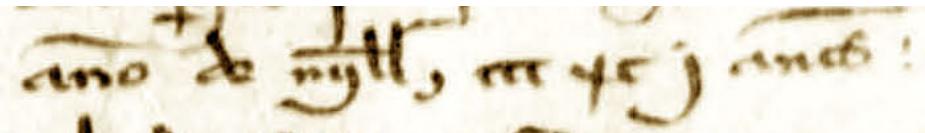
#	Individual Sample	Sample Within Number
I (1)	 	 III 1+1+1=3  LXXXVI $50+10+10+10+5+1 = 86$
V (5)		 LXXXVI $50+10+10+10+5+1 = 86$
X (10)		 LXXXVI $50+10+10+10+5+1 = 86$
L (50)		 LXXXVI $50+10+10+10+5+1 = 86$
C (100)		 XC $10-100 = 90$
D (500)	See table on next page	
M (1000)	See table on next page	

TABLA DE NUMERALES

1.	I	J	J
2.	II	Y	Y
3.	III	UJ	W
4.	IV	UJ	P
5.	V	V	V
6.	VII	VJ	VJ
7.	VII	VY	VY
8.	VIII	VWY	VWY
9.	VIII	VWY	JP
10.	X	Z	E
11.	XI	ZI	EJ
12.	XII	ZY	EY
20.	XX	ZZ	EE
30.	XXX	ZZZ	EEE
40.	XX	ZZZ	EL
50.	2	L	L
60.	2X	LY	EE
70.	2XX	LEY	EEE
90.	2XX	LEZZ	EEEEE
100.	C	C	C
200.	CC	CC	CC
300.	CCC	CCC	CCC
400.	CCCC	CCCC	CCCC
500.	D	D	D
1.000.	M	O2	S
2.000.	O2O2	MM	SS
40.000.	22	ZLJ	SS

In the sample manuscript AMB LA-2 Folio 18 recto, there is one date recorded in Roman numerals:



- The date reads, “año de myll et CCC XC I años”.
- This date is: 1000 and 300 and 90 and 1 = 1391.

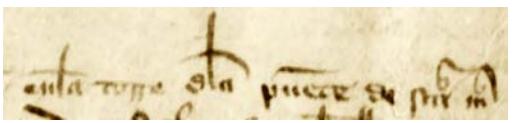
15th Century Abbreviations

Abbreviations in text are usually indicated by a pen mark above the word or an extra pen mark on a letter. Scribes employed abbreviations for commonly used words as well as long words to conserve physical space on a document. Let us review a few of the abbreviations that appear in the sample manuscripts. This list of abbreviations is not an exhaustive one; it is intended to help you learn to recognize their appearance in manuscripts. Below are some of the more common abbreviations, as well as, other abbreviations not shown in the sample words of the alphabet.

Note: An “*” is used to indicate the approximate location of abbreviation pen marks.

Abbreviation -- Word	Sample
algn*s -- algunos	
d*la -- de la	
de	
eglia* -- eglesia	
et -- et d*la (et dela)	

Abbreviation -- Word	Sample
m* -- maria	 <p>en la torre d*la pue*ta de sat* m* (en la torre de la puerta de sancta maria)</p>
nro*s -- nuestros	 <p>enviados nro*s me*sajeros a vos (enviados nuestros mensajeros a vos)</p>
om*s -- ombres	 <p>om*s buenos d*l concejo (ombres buenos del concejo)</p>
p* -- pero (or pedro)	
p* -- para	
q* -- que	
q* -- que	 <p>q* los fablamos algn*s cosas (que los fablamos de algunos cosas)</p>

Abbreviation -- Word	Sample
sat* -- sancta	  en la torre d*la pue*ta de sat* m* (en la torre de la puerta de sancta maria)