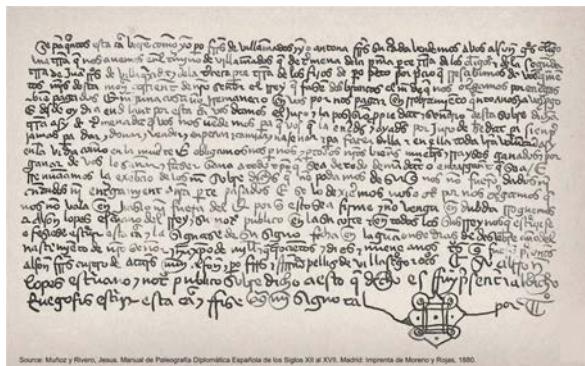
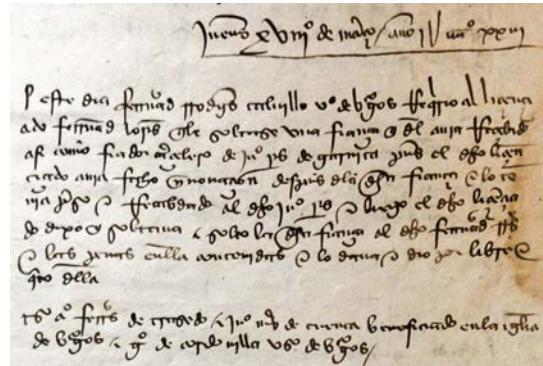


Deciphering Secrets Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)



Source: Muñoz y Rivero, Jesus. Manual de Paleografía Diplomática Española de los Siglos XII al XVI. Madrid: Imprenta de Moreno y Rojas, 1980.



15th Century Spanish Paleography Manual V5.0

Letter - Pero Ferandes de Villamandos and Antona Ferandes, 1419 CE

and

Manuscript Archivo de la Catedral de Burgos, Registro 6, Folio 83 recto, 1423 CE

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University of Colorado
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

26 February 2018



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Introductory Paleography: A Script from the 15th 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).

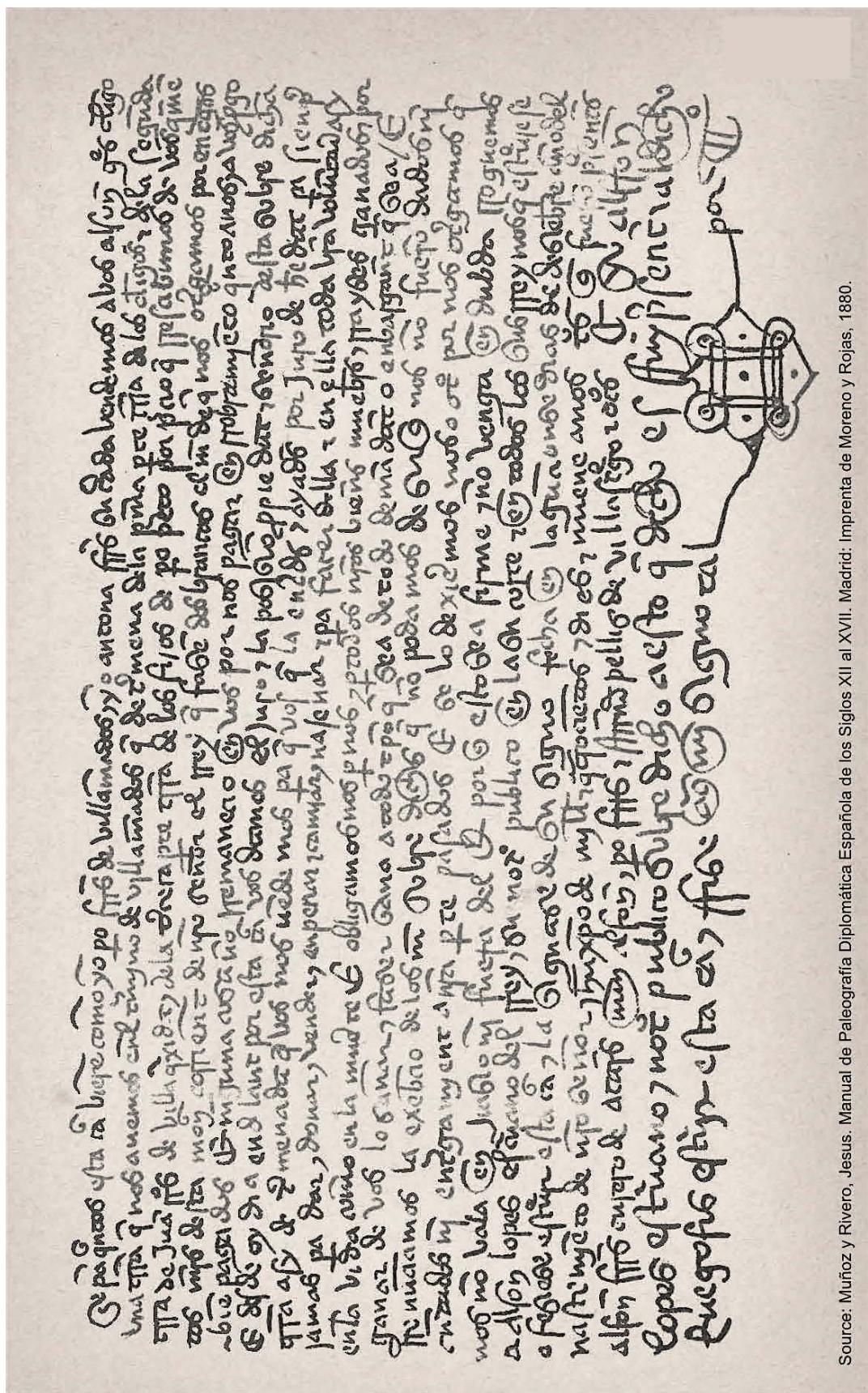
As a historian of medieval Europe, my approach to paleography is one focused on the pragmatic techniques used to read text. While I appreciate the beauty and details of the calligraphy, in general, I view paleography as a tool.

We begin our study of 15th Spanish handwriting with a manuscript reprinted in Jesús Muñoz y Rivero's *Manual de Paleografía Diplomática Española de los Siglos XII al XVII*.¹ This sample manuscript is a letter from Pero Ferandes de Villamandos and Antona Ferandes, who is presumably his spouse. The letter, dated 1419, confirms the sale of a piece of property to a churchman by the name of Alfonso Gonsales.

In addition, we present Manuscript Archivo de la Catedral de Burgos, Registro 6, Folio 83 recto, which is a church administrative record from 1423 CE. This administrative record relates to the financial and administrative activities of the cathedral's church council (*cabildo*).

¹ Muñoz y Rivero, Jesús. *Manual de Paleografía Diplomática Española de los Siglos XII al XVII*. Madrid: Tipolit L. Faure, 1917. Lamina LXV.

Letter - Pero Ferandes de Villamandos and Antona Ferandes, 1419 CE.

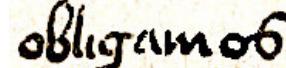
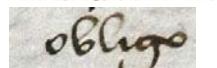
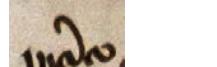
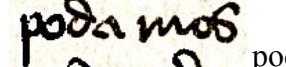
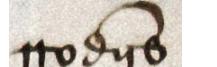
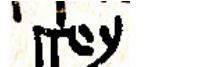


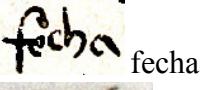
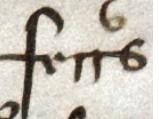
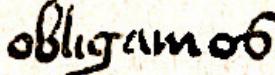
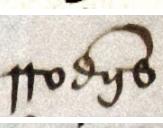
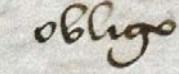
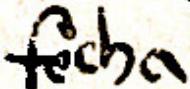
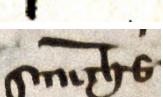
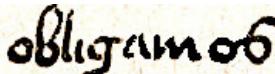
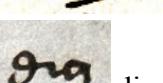
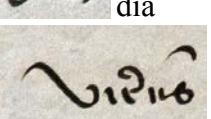
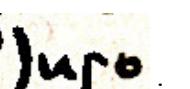
Source: Muñoz y Rivero, Jesús. Manual de Paleografía Diplomática Española de los Siglos XII al XVII. Madrid: Imprenta de Moreno y Rojas, 1880.

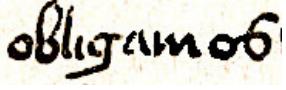
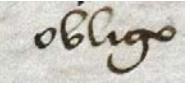
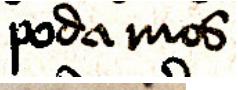
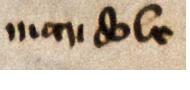
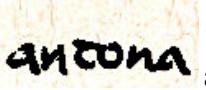
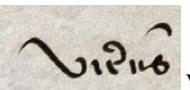
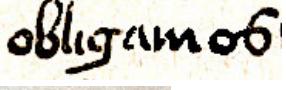
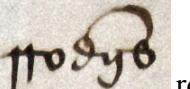
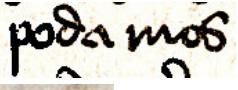
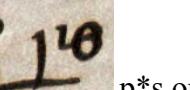
15th Century Letters (Consonants and Vowels)

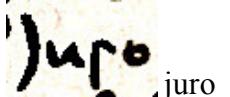
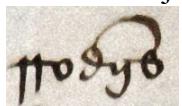
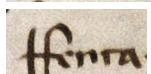
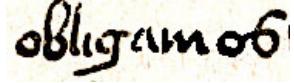
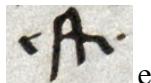
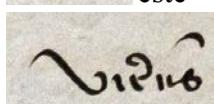
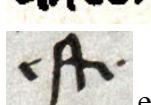
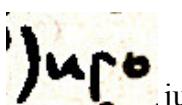
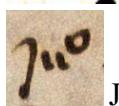
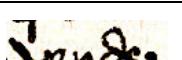
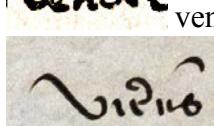
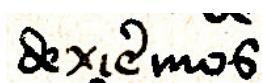
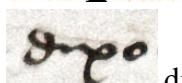
Let us familiarize ourselves with the alphabet. Please review this collection of letters so that you can begin to learn some of the peculiarities of the script. Lowercase letters are used most often as opposed to uppercase letters.

Not all letters and numerals are found in these two 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.)

Letter	Individual Sample	Sample Within Word
a	 	 <i>antona</i> antona  <i>dia</i> dia
b	 	 <i>obligamos</i> obligamos  <i>obligo</i> obligo
c	 	 <i>corriente</i> corriente  <i>celada</i> celada
ç	 	 <i>março</i> março or marzo
d	 	 <i>podamos</i> podamos  <i>rodrig</i> rod*gs or rodrigues
e	 	 <i>rey</i>  <i>este</i>

Letter	Individual Sample	Sample Within Word
f		 
g		  
h		 
i		  
j		 
k	No sample	No sample

Letter	Individual Sample	Sample Within Word
l		 <i>obligamos</i> obligamos  <i>obligo</i> obligo
m		 <i>podamos</i> podamos  <i>mandole</i> mandole
n		 <i>antona</i> antona  <i>vie*ns</i> vie*n*s or viernes
o		 <i>obligamos</i> obligamos  <i>rodrig</i> rod*gs or rodrigues
p		 <i>podamos</i> podamos  <i>peres</i> p*s or peres
q		 <i>q*</i> or que  <i>q*</i> or que

Letter	Individual Sample	Sample Within Word
r		 <i>juro</i>  <i>rodrig</i> rod*gs or rodrigues  <i>renta</i> Renta
s		 <i>obligamos</i> obligamos  <i>este</i>  <i>viernes</i> vie*n*s or viernes
t		 <i>antona</i> antona  <i>este</i>
u		 <i>juro</i>  <i>Ju*</i> or Juan
v		 <i>vender</i> vender  <i>viernes</i> vie*n*s or viernes
w	No sample	No sample
x		 <i>deximos</i>  <i>dixo</i>

Letter	Individual Sample	Sample Within Word
y		 rey  oy or hoy
z	No sample	

Examples of Connecting Letters

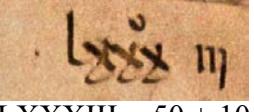
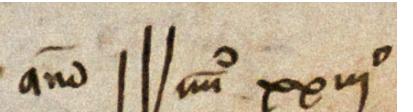
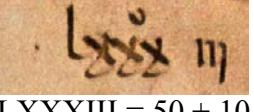
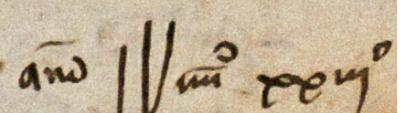
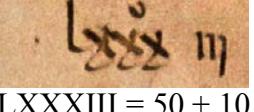
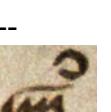
When various letters connect to each other, often the shape and morphology of individual letters can change. For this reason, do review the “Tabla de Nexos” from *Manual de Paleografía Diplomática Española de los Siglos XII al XVII* (1917). The list of connecting letters is not complete, but it is helpful.

ab	ab	ch	ch	es	es	l	l	gl	gl	sy	sy
ad	ad	a	a	ee	es	mi	mi	gu	gu	sy	sy
ad	ad	co	co	ez	ez	mo	mo	re	re	te	te
al	al	ar	ar	fa	fa	ns	ns	ri	ri	to	to
an	an	de	de	fi	fi	ni	ni	ro	ro	tr	tr
an	an	de	de	fo	fo	el	el	rs	rs	ts	ts
ap	ap	di	di	fr	fr	ns	ns	ry	ry	tz	tz
ar	ar	do	do	go	go	ob	ob	se	se	us	us
as	as	dr	dr	gs	gs	or	or	se	se	xo	xo
at	as	ds	ds	he	he	os	os	se	se	xo	xo
ae	as	eb	eb	ho	ho	pl	pl	so	so	zp	zp
az	ay	ee	es	is	is	po	po	so	so	yo	yo
az	ar	ed	ed	la	la	pr	pr	st	st	yo	yo
ca	ca	ez	ei	le	le	pu	pu	st	st	yu	yu
ce	ce	ez	es	le	le	gl	gl	su	su	ze	ze

Tabla de nexos.

15th Century Numbers (Roman Numerals)

As there are no Roman numerals present in the letter of Pero and Antona (1419), we have used a manuscript held by the Archivo de la Catedral de Burgos to supplement this manual. The document is catalogued as ACB Registro 6 Folio 83 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)	 	 LXXXIII = 50 + 10 +10 +10 +1+1+1 = 83  año IY + I+I+I+CI+X+X+I+I+I año 1000+400+20+3 = 1423
V (5)	  	Each of these symbols are 5
X (10)		 LXXXIII = 50 + 10 +10 +10 +1+1+1 = 83  año IY + I+I+I+CI+X+X+I+I+I año 1000+400+20+3 = 1423
L (50)		 LXXXIII = 50 + 10 +10 +10 +1+1+1 = 83
C (100) CI (100)	 	 CI+I+I+I 100+100+100+100 = 400

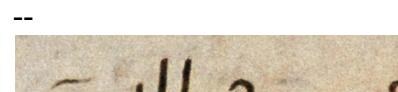
D (500)	D δ ₧	Each of these symbols are 500
M (1000) IY (1000)	M ፩ ፪ --  año 1000	Each of these symbols are 1000 --  año IY + I + C + X + X + I + I + I + I = 1423 año 1000 + 400 + 20 + 3 = 1423

TABLA DE NUMERALES

1.	I	J	J
2.	II	Y	Y
3.	III	UJ	W
4.	IV	UJ	P
5.	V	V	V
6.	VV	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	ELJ

In the sample manuscript ACB Registro 6 Folio 83 recto, there are two dates recorded:

A photograph of a handwritten date in Gothic script. The text is underlined. It reads "Jueves XVIII de marzo año 1423".

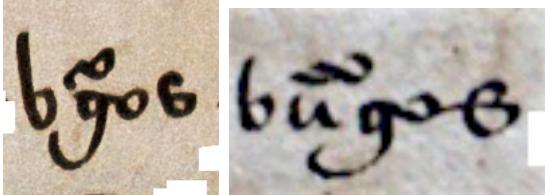
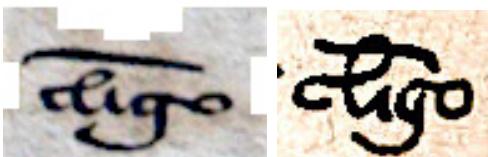
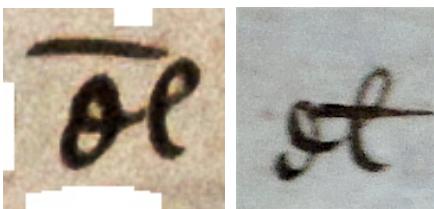
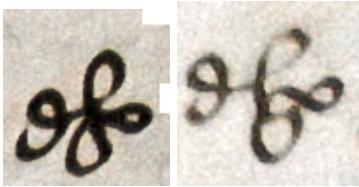
- The date reads, “Jueves XVIII de marzo año 1000 400 20 3”.
- This date is: Jueves de 18 de março año 1423.

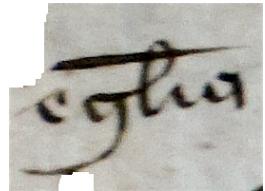
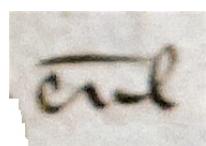
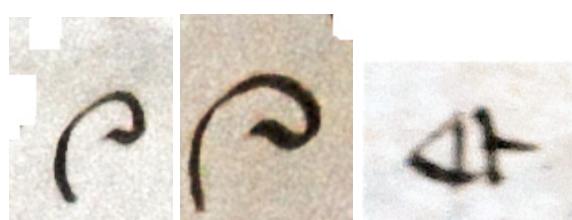
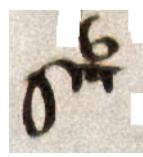
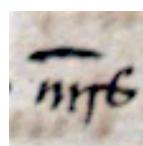
A photograph of a handwritten date in Gothic script. The text is underlined. It reads "Viernes XIX de marzo año 1423".

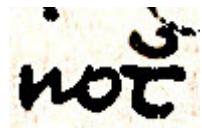
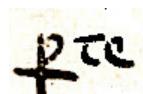
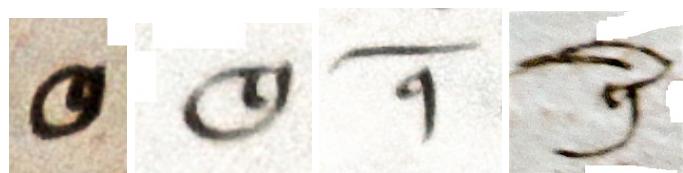
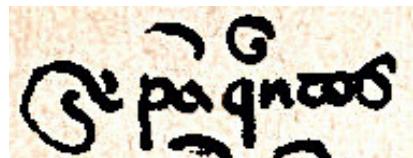
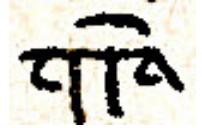
- The date reads, “Viernes XIX de marzo año 1000 400 20 3”.
- This date is: Viernes de 19 de março año 1423.

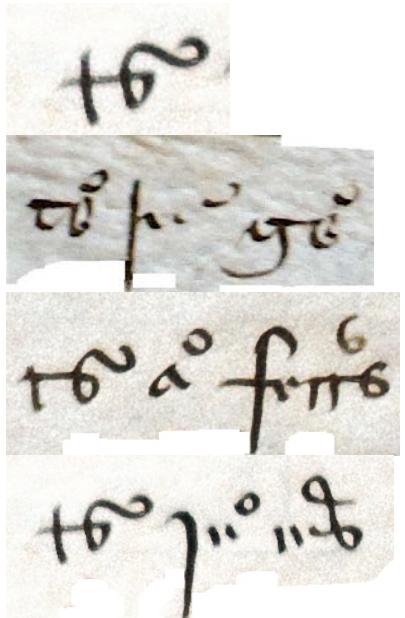
15th Century Abbreviations

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 we will encounter in these particular manuscripts from fifteenth century Burgos. Note: An “*” is used to indicate the approximate location of abbreviation pen marks.

Abbreviation -- Word	Sample
b*gos -- bu*gos -- burgos	
c*a -- carta	
cligo* -- clerigo	
d*l -- <u>del</u>	
dho -- <u>dicho</u>	

Abbreviation -- Word	Sample
eglia* -- eglesia -- iglesia	
en*l -- en el	
frrs* -- ferrandes ferandes	
et -- y	 <p>ut enim tu expones multaque de 7 diebus in meus annos</p>
gr*a -- gracia	
mrs* -- maravedis	
n* -- en	

Abbreviation -- Word	Sample
not* -- notario	
p*o -- pero	
p*te -- parte	
q* -- que	 
se*pa q*ntos -- sepan quantos -- “be it known those who hear me”	
t*rra -- tierra	

Abbreviation -- Word	Sample
ts* -- testigo juan gomes -- testigo alonso ferandes -- testigo juan munos	
v* -- vecino	