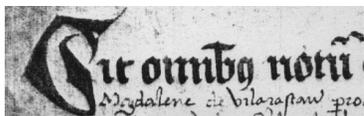


INTRODUCTION



SIT OMNIBUS NOTUM – LET IT BE KNOWN TO ALL that the documents translated here were part of the archive relating to the Cerdà (in Catalan, *Serda* and variant spellings *Serdas*, *Sardas*, *Saedos* etc) family held in the public records at (according to Edith) Barcelona, although the local centre of Centelles, where most of them were attested in the parish church, Santa Coloma/Colombe/Columbe¹, is probably the more likely candidate. When the estate passed out of the family hands in the 1890s after (traditionally) over a millenium of ownership, the documents were removed by the family and divided among the children of the last Cerdà owner, Pepita Richardson y Cerdà, daughter of Ildefonso Cerdà y Sunyer. Unless otherwise stated the documents are written on parchment and composed in Latin, and relate to property transfers affecting the Cerdà estate. These take the form of conveyancing documents, marriage settlements, and last wills and testaments. Some documents do not relate specifically to Cerda transactions but to the prior history of property which subsequently came into Cerdà possession. These would have been used to establish that the vendor/lessor had true title to the property concerned, and could there for legally dispose of it. Validity of the documents was attested by clergy in their notarial function, which they enjoyed in mediaeval times as the only literate class; but in later documents authentication by lay notaries reflects the rise of a secular legal profession.

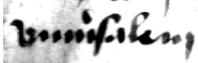
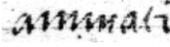
I. NOTES ON THE TRANSLATIONS

Translation posed many difficulties, the major ones of which are discussed below, and should therefore not necessarily be regarded as accurate in all respects, but as a best attempt which will possibly give a general idea of the sense and flavour of the originals.

Transcription

The documents use a variety of scripts of varying degrees of legibility, all written with quill pens. The styles are mostly clerical, business writing as distinct from book hands, which were separate and more careful styles. The early scripts are in a form which emphasizes the

¹ There are two candidates for Sta. Columba [a] She was a young woman martyred by the Moors in Seville in the late 8th Cent. for refusing to abjure her faith, or [b] a nun martyred at Cordoba on 17 September 853. She would in either case have been well remembered when Centelles was founded in A.D. 898.

vertical strokes (technically, versions of the general *minuscule* style) e.g.  while from the 15th Century cursive (rounded) forms e.g.  take over. Depending on the scribe, the legibility of these latter ranges from the difficult to the superb. Different styles may appear in the one document where it is formally attested by different individuals. In all documents the differential fading of the ink, particularly on the lighter ascending strokes of letters, introduces further complications at specific points.

- **Ambiguity of particular letters.** Depending on the script in use it may be difficult to determine the value of an individual letter. Common, but not the only, cases for confusion are **i m n o** and **u** (cf. examples above), or **c e r, t** when written at the same height as other letters, and **x**. for example, the examples above read respectively *univisilini* [universal] and *annuati* [annually]. The first group of letters is important as Latin is an inflected language, with precise meanings of the root word dependent on the inflection used, and these letters are very common in Latin inflections. Transcription, and hence translations, have often to be based on finding an alternative form (from among several potential ones) which fits the context.
- **Abbreviations.** Scribal practice, particularly in the early documents, was to abbreviate extensively where their meaning was clear to contemporaries (parchment was expensive). Words thus abbreviated were usually (but not always) indicated by a bar over the abbreviated syllables, but in some later documents merely by a flourish at the end of the word. Many abbreviations can be expanded from context, for instance the common **ano anats Dni**, expanding to **anno a natalis Domini**, "year from the Nativity of the Lord". However, there are others, including technical legal terminology, which are not as obvious. Additionally, some shorthand forms, such as **9** for *-us*, **4** for *-rum* (as a gen.pl.) and **qz** for the many inflected forms of the demonstrative pronoun *quis* – "who/which", or the conjunctive suffix *-que* – "and".

Language

Mediaeval Latin was a different language from its classical progenitor, and classical authors would have found it intolerably barbaric. Its ultimate foundation was the Vulgate Bible of the early 5th Century, by which time Latin had evolved considerably from the classical period. By the time of the earliest of these documents the Latin used in them was markedly affected, particularly in word order and sentence construction, by the common speech which had

developed into early forms of the Romance languages, in the case of these documents, early Catalan. The scribes were thinking in their local language and simply replacing Catalan words with often quite similar Latin ones. Once transcribed, however, it is paradoxically easier to translate than the Latin of the later documents from the 15th Century onwards, as the influence of the Renaissance led to a revival of classical forms, and in some of these documents the scribes are showing off their skill by using high style complex syntax, the specific meaning of which can be unclear. Some specific problems are discussed below.

Vocabulary. Mediaeval Latin, as a living language, developed its own vocabulary (and often distinctive spelling – cf. *univisalini* above, correctly *universali*) which is extensively reflected in these documents, particularly in technical legal terms. A problem is the growing number of words from the 12th Century onwards borrowed from or modelled after the popular languages. Both dictionaries of Mediaeval Latin I have been able to consult have a North European bias, but have provided translations of nearly 400 terms, some of which do not always seem to fit the context. There are about 40 untranslated words, some of which may be due to transcription errors or abbreviations which cannot be expanded (see above). Technical legal vocabulary has presented problems, particularly some commonly used terms:-

- **stabilere**(vb.) and **stabilimentum**(n.). – to establish – establishment. Used of the action of the vendor to the recipient of the property, as in *vobis de novo stabilio* – "I establish to you anew". This has generally been translated as above, but in some contexts the noun appears to relate to the contract.
- **emphitosinus** - this is a local variant of a word of Greek derivation, *emphyteusis*, formally translated as "long lease". Its Catalan form has been described² as

" hereditary *emphyteusis*, a system which prevailed in much of Europe going back to the tenth century, in which land-tenure agreements were passed down from father to son, jealously guarded by tenants and nearly impossible for the landlord to revoke. Some leases of this kind , issued in the twelfth century, were still in force seven hundred years later³. It was a simple sharecropping lease; the peasant worked the land and paid the taxes; the cost of seed and equipment was shared; owner and tenant split the profits"⁴.

Transfers of this type of land in the documents probably relate to changes (temporary or permanent) of landlord with the peasants protected by the terms of the *emphyteusis*. The term has been left unchanged in these translations.

² Hughes, Robert. *Barcelona*, New York 1992, p.98

³ As is shown by the subsequent copying of documents centuries later cf. the fourth document, 1359, copied in 1635.

⁴ Possibly continuing into the late 19th Cent. ECS had a memory of the estate farmers making three piles of their produce, from which her father would select one, pointing with his stick.

- **solvere** - to pay, fulfil, perform a duty, release, dissolve, bring to an end etc. translated as "discharge" which seems to best fit the contexts in which it is used.
- **allodium** - a form of landholding common on the Continent but never with an equivalent in English law (although it appears as a description in Domesday Book, compiled for Norman use). Originally it meant an estate held, not of a superior, but in absolute ownership, as distinct from a feudal holding, which imposed obligations of service on the holder. The closest translation is "freehold", and this is the word that has been used, but by the time of the documents there were obviously many gradations of *allodium*, as it is frequently emphasized, often substantially, as in *franco et libera allodio*, which means literally "free freehold proper to a free man". In the translations the emphasis is indicated by adjectives such as "complete" or "entire" or suitable combinations depending on the degree of emphasis.
- **honor** - both the land itself and the entire complex of rights, responsibilities and jurisdiction relating to the property.

Case and Mood Confusion. Latin has a case, the Ablative, used by nouns and qualifying adjectives to indicate place, motion, time, origin, manner and cause for the noun, often without a preposition if the meaning is clear – to the writer! The inflected ending for the Ablative is the same, in most declensions in the singular and invariably in the plural, as the Dative. This can often be a cause of uncertainty in translation. In verbs the difference in inflection between the Indicative and Subjunctive Mood is frequently a single letter, often one of those presenting transcription difficulties (see above). Additionally, there are some instances where the script is clear but the writer appears to have confused the Mood. The Indicative/Subjunctive confusion can be important in legal documents as it is often the only indicator of the difference between an actual or a hypothetical action.

Capitalization and Punctuation. In the texts these are rare or apparently haphazard where present. Standardized punctuation was a development of the 16th/17th Centuries. Full stops are the first things to disappear when the ink fades and the use of capitals to commence a sentence is uncommon. Sentences in the later documents are very long with multiple clauses, and in many cases the translation has undoubtedly missed the sentence ending, with consequent deleterious effects on the meaning. Subordinate punctuation (commas etc) does not appear in the documents and has been interpolated in the translations. Additionally, sentence reconstruction has not been helped by transcription difficulties.

Multiple Meanings. Some words have multiple meanings, often contradictory. A very common example is *sine* – "without", which has, even in classical Latin, the secondary meaning of "besides", a complete opposite. This has been translated as "with" or "without" as the sense seemed to direct, but in each case the opposite may be the correct meaning. Many nouns and verbs have multiple meanings (cf. *solvere* above); the development of mediaeval Latin led to many words acquiring a variety, often extensive, of specialized meanings. The word *ratio* (which appears frequently in the documents) with the basic meaning of "calculation, argument" has 22 separate meanings in the principal dictionary consulted. In each case the apparent best fit has been selected, although where the different meanings may be significant this has been indicated in footnotes

Topography

Boundaries – Prior to the 19th Century development of surveyed titles, land had to be specified by topographical description of boundaries. This was standard mediaeval practice, and has been one of the foundations of 20th Century landscape history.

Types of land needed to be indicated in detail; the 11th Century basic law of Catalonia, the *Usatges* (Clause 68) specified:-

"Highways and public roads, flowing water and fresh water springs, meadows and pastures, forests, coppices and crags"

as belonging to the ruler

Terrace lands - this refers to small terraced plots (some less than half an acre in all, with individual terraces much smaller) still common on the Cerdà/Centelles area. Presumably these were designed to maximize the use on slopes of the limited good soil in the area.

Watercourse – *torrentus*, modern Catalan *torrent* – this technically means "mountain stream" but is translated here as "watercourse" in the sense of a stream not necessarily perennial and possibly dry, or nearly so, for parts of the year. The *torrent* through Centelles fits this description, and appears as if it could be quite "torrential" after rain on the rocky hills of the area.

Conventions Used in the Translations

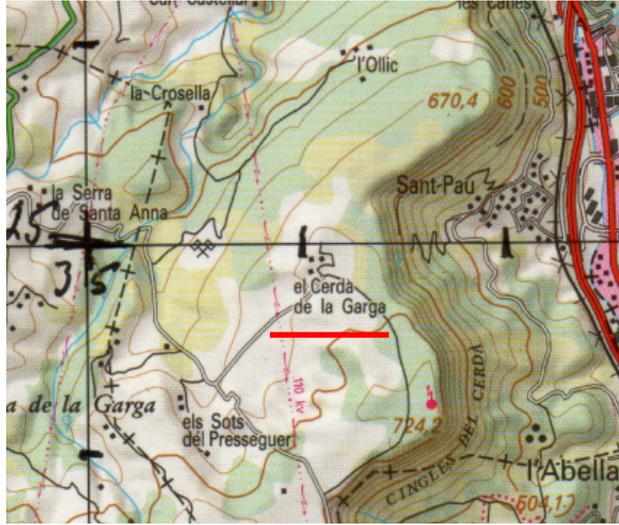
The text represents the best possible translation taking into account the problems described above. Particular conventions used are:-

- Words in *italics* (unless enclosed in square brackets – see below) are untranslated, either because of doubtful transcription (see above) or because the apparent Latin word does not

appear in dictionaries. The latter may be affected by the former. Unexpandable abbreviations have been indicated by an asterisk, e.g. *reprom**. Some placenames in the vernacular have been italicized for clarity.

- Words that are too corrupt to be transliterated are indicated by a group of four dashes, e.g. ----, regardless of length of word. Several of these groups in succession indicate the number of words unreadable. Where a large number of such words occur it may be indicated by an editorial comment, e.g. [7-8 words unreadable].
- Words enclosed in square brackets are translator's editorial comments, often providing an alternative translation or inserting an apparently missing word in the text. Longer comments are provided in footnotes.
- Words separated by an oblique slash, e.g. arrange/construct, are alternative translations of the original Latin where the context does not clearly indicate the correct rendering.
- Numbers in heavy type enclosed in arrows, e.g. <12>, are line numbers of the original text, and have been included for the convenience of any subsequent editor.
- The use of larger type in some documents reflects the usage of the manuscript original.
- The enclosure of words in question marks, e.g. ?resident?, indicates a probable, although not certain, meaning. Double question marks indicate a tenuous translation.

II. PLACENAMES



This section, originally issued as a separate Supplement, discusses place-names in the Documents, both of estates and when part of personal names, which can be identified on the attached map, which is enlarged from

Institut Cartogràfic de Catalunya

Mapa Comercial de Catalunya

1:50 000

Osona – (Sheet) 24

Approximate scale of the enlargement is 1:30 000; the printed grid lines are at 5 km intervals with minor co-ordinates at 1 km intervals added manually on the major lines. Locations on the map are identified by 4-figure or 6-figure grid references and are underlined in red on the map to facilitate reference. The contour interval is 10 metres.

Place-names in the Documents are noted in this section in *italics* with the document title and date, and line number of the first reference. Line numbers are given as in the documents, e.g. <12>. Subsequent references are not noted unless significant. Modern place-names and all map references are given in **bold type**. Map references, 4-figure or 6-figure are read by reading off the initial horizontal reference (2 or 3 figures respectively) then the vertical component. Italic and bold type conventions are also used in the Placename notes appended to each document.

Only approximately one third of the place-names in the Documents can be identified. In the early Documents the place-names are mainly the geographic identifier of the personal name

e.g. *Raimund d'Sala*. Many of the unidentified place-names would relate to features too small to be shown on a map of this scale - property names, farmsteads, local topographical features, etc, although they may well be marked without being named, e.g. the building cluster at **360218**, probably a small village or estate complex like Cerdà. Additionally numbers of the place-names relate to common agricultural or topographic features e.g. *Olivarus* [CERDA N36 1221 <23>] meaning "olive grove" or *Fontanilles* [CERDA P40 1611 <17>] meaning "fountain, spring".

Some recurrent place-names are discussed below; other names appearing in specific documents are discussed at the end of each document.

CERDÀ 361249.

The present estate is **el Cerdà de la Garga** although the family name was *Cerdà de Vilaestau*. *Vilaestau* is not marked on the map but would appear to have been east of the present house. A church of *St Marie de Vilaestau* is referred to in 1359 <p2> and CERDA No 1 1368 <3>, and ECS referred once to "the church at Vilaestau in the valley". It is referred to in 1359 as a chapel subordinate to *St. Columbe de Vineolis* (see *Centelles* below) and in 1368 as being "in the aforesaid parish of *St Columbe de Vineolis*". The narrow defile of the valley of the **Congost** is obviously the principal strategic feature of the *Cerdà* area, being the direct route south from the Pyrenees to Barcelona (but see *CENTELLES* below), and *Vilaestau*, meaning according to ECS "the place where I rested", was traditionally a halt of Charlemagne on his campaign to reconquer Barcelona. There may be something in the tradition, *Vila* in modern Catalan is recorded as an archaic term for "town" and *estau* (modern **estar**) means "to stay, remain". However, the distinguished visitor may more probably been Charlemagne's son (and eventual successor) Louis the Pious, who was the conqueror/liberator of Barcelona, in his father's name, on Easter Saturday 801, while his father was engaged in Italy⁵. It is possible that the original *Cerdà* was closer to the escarpment **Cingles** (cliff) **del Cerdà 3729** where it could more easily dominate the defile, and moved to its present location when the valley lost its immediate strategic significance. However, **Garga** means "throat" in Catalan so the site may be original. Another possibility is that *Cerdà* was originally in the Parish of *Vilaestau* (which may pre-date *Centelles* (again see below) and the family name was derived from there. Parish boundaries were subject to change, and in CERDA N 30 1521-44 <3> *Ferrer de Vilaestau* is described as in the parish of *St Columba de Sintillis*.

Note (GMT): *St Magdalena de Vilarestau* church is in ruins, a short distance north-east of *El Cerdà*.

⁵ Camps J. (ed) *Cataluñya en la Època Carolingia*, Barcelona 1999 p20 [Eng. Trans. p.427]

CENTELLES 3527

This name, with variant spellings over time, *Cenelles*, *Sintillas* etc, evidently referred originally to a district rather than the present town. The *Castle of Centelles*, [CERDA No 1 1368 <28>], is located at **338247**, and the **Torrent de Centelles** (source at **330254**) flows away from the present town. The first settlement at Centelles was probably the Castle, which dominates the safer tactical route from the Vic basin to the open country behind Barcelona, to the west of the 10 km narrow defile of the Congost, a route military expeditions may well have avoided in disputed territory. Ollich i Castanyer,⁶ discussing the first line of Carolingian frontier fortifications in the Osona (Vic) district, (c.790, before the conquest/liberation of Barcelona in 814) refers to:-

.....the hill of Puigsagordi*, which formed part of the network of observation points of the Centelles castle on** the Congost, which defended the south of Osona"

* **338355**, overlooking the modern Centelles.

** In Spanish *sobre*, which can also mean "above", which may be a better translation.

The parish of *St. Martin de Centelles*, [CERDA N36 1221 <4>], **Sant Marti de Centelles 3424**, is still much closer to the Castle than to the present town. SALA N3 1186 refers to the parish of *St Columbe de Centelles* <3> and the parish of *Vineoleana* <4>, (**Vinyoles 340277**) a kilometre west of the present town. In CERDA N 36 1221 <4> it is referred to as *St Columbe de Vineolis*, distinguished from *St Martin de Sintillis* and in SALA N7 1483 <24> "*St Colomba de Sintillis, formerly called de Vineolis*" This would suggest the parochial centre moved in the course of time.* The Castle remained an important administrative centre until at least the 16th Century, the last reference in the Documents being CERDA N 4 1535 <32>.

* In 1998 Centelles was celebrating "898—1998". 898 may be the foundation year of the present town, in a period of greater security consequent on the establishment of the Christian frontier much further south

SALA

This estate, *de la Sala de Gemanas* and later variant spelling *Gemenes*, for which a separate archive was maintained of which seven records are included in the Documents, cannot be located on the map. *Raimund d'Sala* is recorded as the purchaser of unidentified property in SALA N 3 1186 <2> and the cataloguing of this transaction in this way suggests it may be the specific estate which is first referred to as such in SALA N 7 1483 <3>. *Sala* means "hall, court" and the translation of the estate name may be "Gemanas Hall". *Gemenes* in Classical Latin meant "double, twin", with no separate meaning recorded for Mediaeval Latin or a derivative in modern Catalan. SALA N 11 1518 <4> refers to *la rosta del pollel* as part of the estate. *Rosta*

⁶ In *ibid.* p.85 [Eng. Trans. p. 461]

means "steep slope", which suggests this part may have been on the escarpment. SALA N 14 1523 <5> refers to *Lossoleis de la Sala de Vall Desemenis*; if, as is likely, *Desemenis* is a variant of *de Gemenes*, the estate centre may have been located in one of the re-entrants on the escarpment.

FERRER/FABRER

The Latin used for *Ferrer*, *ferrarius*, means "blacksmith", as a placename probably meaning "smithy". *Fabrer* is an alternative name for "smithy" although more closely aligned to the Latin *fabrica*, the root word for "manufacture" and therefore may mean "workshop" although the two could well be synonyms, depending on local usage.⁷ There seem to be three estates of these names referred to in the Documents probably deriving the name from three separate local smithies.

- *Ferrarius/Ferrer de Vilaestau* "hard by the church of *St. Marie de Vilaestau*" CERDA No 1 1368 <3> and subsequently in CERDA N 30 1521 <3>, SALA N 14 1523 <1>, CERDA N 11 1527 <3>, and PUJADES N 3 1535 <1>.
- "...the house of *Ferrer* in the said parish of (*St. Peter*) *Vallis Danielis*", CERDA N 30 1521 <1>, the modern **Sant Pere de Valldaneu 375224**
- *Fabrer*, parish of *Saint Michael Las Perxas* CERDA N 11 1527 <1>, the modern **Sant Miquel Sesperxes 352222**.

The modern name **el Febrer at 359229** may represent either of the latter two, the third being more likely as it appears to be the parish of the plateau while the second is a valley church. However, there is a possibility that *Fabrer* may be represented by the modern **el Fabregar 333232** as it is apparently adjacent to *Banler* <9> which is associated with the estate of *de la Spluga*. *Banler* is probably **Barnils 325230** as the modern name is adjacent to the **Torrent de la Spluga**, whose source is at **338234**. *Fabrer* could therefore be the modern **el Fabregar** taking its name from **Puig** (Peak) **Fabregar 339236**. A problem with this is that these locations would appear more likely to be in the parish of **Sant Marti de Centelles**. The reference to *Ferrer* and *de la Spluga* in CERDA N 4 1535 <19-20> (which may suggest the possible parallel usage of *Ferrer* and *Fabrer*), also mentions the estate of *Soler* "which is possessed in *pressagne* by the parish of *St Michael Las Perxas*", The untranslated word *pressagne*, for which there is no related word in the standard Mediaeval Latin dictionary, may be related to a Classical Latin word *pressus* generally meaning "pressure" and associated ideas, but with one of many meanings "surrounded", suggesting that one parish might possess property

⁷ Common in English (and probably other languages) before the development of "correct" usage in the 17th and subsequent Centuries.

physically located in another. Alternatively, *pressagne* may possibly be a reference to **el Presseguer 359224** meaning "peach-tree" two kilometres south of Cerdà or to **els Sots del Presseguer 356241**, meaning "Peach-tree Bottom", a kilometre south-west of Cerdà. The location of *Fabrer* must be considered in doubt.

III. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Camps, J. (ed.) *Cataluña en la Epoca Carolingia.* Barcelona 1999)

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Sidwell, K. *Reading Mediaeval Latin.* Cambridge 1995

Assumes a good knowledge of classical Latin, but glossary contains some useful terms.