



The Zayyanid State Through Official Correspondence in the Digitized Argonne Archive

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• Abstract:

This paper seeks to explore the contemporary state of digital transformation and the role of digitized historical archival collections in Spain in supporting modern historical studies concerning the history of the Zayyanid state during the medieval period. These digitized archives have preserved numerous official correspondences and Arabic documents issued by the Zayyanid state, dating back seven centuries. These archives constitute a valuable primary source, offering a wealth of unique scholarly material on the history of the Zayyanid state that is absent from other sources documenting this period. They contain numerous Zayyanid correspondences in Arabic, covering an important historical span extending from the 7th/14th century to the 9th/15th century.

Through the presentation of selected examples, this research paper highlights the role of digitized historical texts in proposing new historical approaches that go beyond the conventional methodologies based on traditional sources. This shift is expected to enhance the quality of specialized historical research on this period. Additionally, it may encourage future researchers focusing on the history of Zayyanid Tlemcen to rely on this digitized archive as a foundation for producing rigorous and innovative historical analyses.

Keywords:

Digital Document, Zayyanid State, Digitized Archive

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• Introduction :

Official correspondences have long been regarded as one of the fundamental pillars on which historians rely when studying history. These documents serve as invaluable containers of historical information, providing insight into the events and circumstances of a particular period, and are essential for constructing a detailed understanding of the past. Although the primary purpose of writing official correspondence is not to record history per se, but to inform, notify, and report on ongoing matters, these documents hold great significance as direct remnants of historical events. They act as material witnesses, created at the time an event occurred, capturing the immediate context and offering a snapshot of the political, social, and cultural conditions of that period.

Because of the crucial role official correspondences play in historical research, there has been a growing recognition of their importance over time. This awareness, coupled with the understanding of the need to preserve these documents from potential damage and the increasing demand for access to them, has led to significant efforts to safeguard this valuable historical heritage. Traditional methods of managing and accessing these materials are often inadequate to address the challenges of preservation and accessibility. As a result, numerous projects have emerged with the aim of meeting the needs of the modern age. These projects focus on providing alternatives for the effective management, utilization, and facilitation of access to primary sources, which are often difficult to consult through conventional means.

In response to the limitations of traditional archival practices, many global and local institutions have embraced technological advancements to ensure the preservation of historical documents. One of the most important technological initiatives has been the digitization of archives, where physical paper documents are converted into digital formats to facilitate their storage, retrieval, and dissemination. The digitized archive of the Aragon Crown in Spain stands out as one of the most significant examples of such efforts. This archive holds nearly eight million digitized documents, many of which date back to the 8th/14th century and 9th/15th century, offering a wealth of historical material from this period. Among these documents, a substantial number focus on the history of medieval Algeria, with particular attention given to the Zayyanid era (633 AH - 1235 CE / 962 AH - 1554 CE). This brings us to the central question of this paper: the significance of these digitized documents in the study of the history of Tlemcen during the medieval period. How can these digitized materials contribute to specialized historical research on this era, and what new opportunities do they present for enhancing our understanding of the history of Tlemcen and the Zayyanid dynasty? This paper seeks to explore the potential of these documents to provide fresh insights into this crucial period in North African history.

This issue is accompanied by a set of sub-questions:

- To what extent can these specialized digitized documents be categorized?
- What are the contents of these documents?

To answer the research question and offer a historical approach that meets the requirements of research on this topic, we employed the historical method to explore and analyze the material of these primary sources.

1. Diplomatic Documents and Correspondences in the Archive of the Crown of Aragon:

These are official royal diplomatic documents (Cartas Real Diplomáticas) in the Archive of the Crown of Aragon (Archivo de la Corona de Aragón), covering an important period in the history of Morocco during the medieval era. They date back to the reigns of the Hafsids (626-982 AH / 1227-1274 CE), Zayyanid (633-962 AH / 1235-1554 CE), and Marinid (668-869 AH / 1269-1465 CE) dynasties. The Royal Letters section includes a collection of 162 documents in Arabic¹, stored in Cabinets 1, 2, and 3 in boxes labeled (Cartas Real Diplomáticas ...etc. Arabes). These documents cover Spanish relations with Ifriqiya, the Kingdom of Tlemcen, the Maghreb, Granada, and Egypt. According to the archive's records, they are dated between the 7th and 9th centuries AH / 1315 CE, most of which focus on trade relations between the two shores, including taxes, annual tributes, customs privileges, and peace treaties. They also contain documents related to navigation, piracy between North African kingdoms and European states, and treaties on prisoners of war and the appointment of consuls and ambassadors².

This archive, originally established as a Catholic institution in Spain, was tasked with the complete preservation of the old documents related to the Crown of Aragon and other historical resources. In 1944, its headquarters were moved from the Palau de Lostentín, part of the Royal Pedralbes Palace in Barcelona, to the Mugar building. The Royal Archives of Barcelona were established in 1315 by King James II of Aragon, and in 1419, the Royal Archive of Valencia was established. After Xavier Jarra was appointed head of the archives, he sought to establish a true archival repository for the Crown of Aragon by merging the royal archives in Barcelona³.

¹ Dr. Saleh Ba'izig stated this number, but the number of digitized letters on the website is higher, and the more reliable figure is what Dr. Nasira Azroudi mentioned, which is 183 Arabic documents. Saleh, Ba'izig : Béjaïa in the Hafsids Era: An Economic and Social Study, Publications of the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences, University of Tunis, 2006, p. 23. Nasira, Azroudi : The Sultan's Mark among the Rulers of Western Islam: An Applied Study on the Documents from the Aragon Crown Archive, Publications of the Faculty of Arts and Islamic Civilization, Prince Abdelkader University - Constantine - Algeria, 2022, p. 28.

² Nasira, Azroudi, op. cit., p.p . 22-25 .

³ Ibid., p. 27



2. Key Scholars and Researchers of Diplomatic Documents in the Archive of the Crown of Aragon

These documents have served as a cornerstone for numerous studies conducted by Arab and European researchers, providing invaluable insights into the economic, political, and cultural dynamics of their respective periods. Scholars have utilized these primary sources to reconstruct historical events, analyze diplomatic relations, and trace the evolution of trade networks across the Mediterranean. The most notable researchers who have relied on these documents include prominent historians and archivists who have delved into the archives of the Aragon Crown to extract data that illuminate the interactions between the Islamic Maghreb and Christian Europe.

Their work spans various themes, such as the role of correspondence in mediating conflicts, fostering alliances, and regulating commerce. By examining these documents, researchers have uncovered detailed accounts of treaties, agreements, and exchanges that reveal the complexities of intercultural relations.

Moreover, the contributions of these scholars have expanded beyond academia, influencing broader historical narratives and informing public understanding of the shared heritage between North Africa and Europe. By meticulously analyzing these documents, they have unearthed overlooked aspects of medieval history, emphasizing the significance of these archives in filling gaps left by classical sources and reshaping the historiographical discourse of the Mediterranean world.

a. European Researchers:

- Giminer Soler, in the Annals of the Catalan Studies Institute magazine in 1909, where he provided a Spanish translation of the documents⁴.

- Cubelles, in his book "The Diplomatic Documents of Aragon" published in 1916⁵.

- Alarcon & Garcia Di Linares, who published a collection of these Arabic letters along with translations from Arabic into Spanish in 1940⁶.

- Dominique Valérian, in his doctoral thesis "Bejaïa: A Maghreb Port", which was translated into Arabic by Professor Alaoua Amara in 2014⁷.

⁴ SOLER, (G) : Documents of Tunisia from the Aragon Crown Archive, Institut d'Estudis Catalans, Anuari, 1909-10, pp. 22-25.

⁵ Cubelles : Documentos Diplomáticos Aragoneses, Revue Hispanique, Vol. XXXVII, pp. 105-205

⁶ Maximiliano Alarcón y Santón, García de Linares, *Los Documentos Árabes del Archivo de la Corona de Aragón*, Madrid, 1940.

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b. Arab Researchers:

- Nasira Azroudi, in her book "The Sultanate Mark of the Western Islamic Rulers" published in 2022, where she dedicated substantial effort and fieldwork to studying this archive, utilizing all the Arabic documents contained within it for her research⁸.

- Omar Saidan, in his work "Catalan Spain's Relations with Tlemcen in the First and Second Quarters of the 14th Century: Study, Documents (Letters and Treaties), Commentaries, and Analysis", where he used numerous Arabic documents related to the history of Zayyanid Tlemcen⁹.

- Ahmed Azzawi, in his book "The Western Islamic World during the 7th and 8th Centuries AH", which includes four volumes covering the political history of the Zayyanid, Hafsid, and Banu al-Ahmar states, based on these documents¹⁰.

3. Electronic Accessibility of Digitized Zayyanid Documents in the Archive of the Crown of Aragon

The Archive of the Crown of Aragon offers online access¹¹ and provides researchers with several important features, including:

- The ability to customize a field for document metadata, such as document type, the year it was copied (in the Gregorian calendar), along with an attached summary in Spanish of the document's content, title, and number within the archive box. This feature facilitates systematic organization and analysis, saving researchers valuable time.
- Advanced viewing options, including zooming, resizing, changing the tilt angle, and adjusting the clarity of documents. These tools enable researchers to examine intricate details, such as faded text or marginal notes, ensuring thorough analysis.
- The option to view and download documents in various formats without compromising their quality, as well as the ability to print high-resolution copies for offline use or archival purposes.

⁷ Dominique, Valerian ; Béjaïa: A Maghrebian Port, translated by Alaoua Amara, Publications of the High Council for the Arabic Language, Algeria, 2014.

⁸ Nasira Azroudi, op. cit., various pages .

⁹ Omar, Saidan : *The Relations of Catalan Spain with Tlemcen in the First and Second Thirds of the 14th Century: Study and Documents (Letters and Treaties) with Comments and Analyses*, Saidan Publications, Tunis, 2003.

¹⁰ Ahmed, Azzawi : *The Western Islamic World During the 7th and 8th Centuries AH*, Vol. 2, Diour Al-Jami', Rabat Printing Press, Morocco, 2007.

¹¹ PARES - Portal de Archivos Españoles, available:

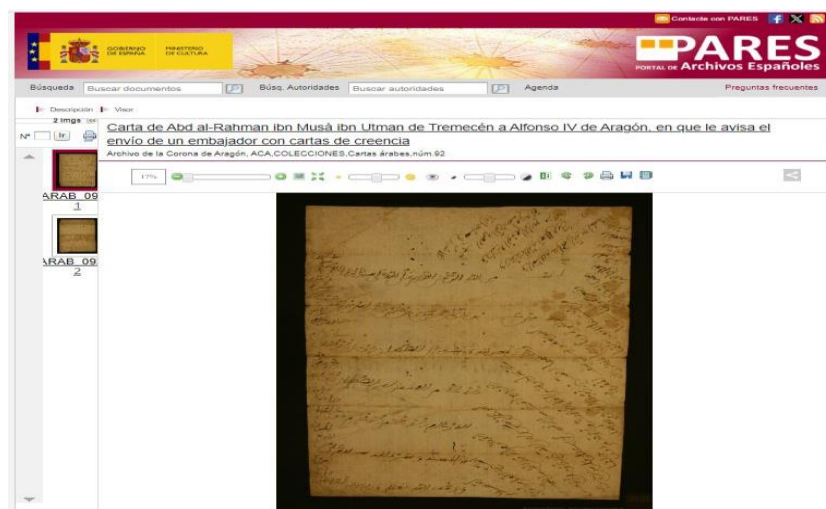
[http://pares.mcu.es/ParesBusquedas20/catalogo/find?idAut=46964&archivo=6&tipoAsocAut=1&nomAut=Pedro%20IV%20\(1319-1387,%20rey%20de%20Arag%C3%B3n\)](http://pares.mcu.es/ParesBusquedas20/catalogo/find?idAut=46964&archivo=6&tipoAsocAut=1&nomAut=Pedro%20IV%20(1319-1387,%20rey%20de%20Arag%C3%B3n)) (accessed on December 26, 2024).

- Displaying both the front and back of documents in a single file, ensuring seals, signatures, and other critical markings are included in the final view. These elements are essential for authenticating and interpreting historical records.

A dedicated view for the back of documents bearing seals or sultanic marks, allowing scholars to focus on their design, placement, and condition, which can reveal valuable information about administrative processes and authenticity.

These features make the platform an indispensable tool for researchers, combining academic rigor with accessibility. By digitizing and preserving fragile historical materials, the Archive of the Crown of Aragon not only protects these invaluable resources but also democratizes access, enabling a more diverse range of scholars to engage with its vast collections.

Screenshot of the Digitized Argonne Archive Website¹²



4. Overview of the Digitized Aragonese Archive and its Historical Relevance

The digitized Aragonese archive holds a significant collection of historical documents, including 135 letters written in Arabic, out of a total of 183. These letters provide valuable insight into the history of several prominent dynasties and regions, specifically the Marinid state¹³, the Zayyanid state¹⁴, the Hafsid state¹⁵, and the Nasrid dynasty¹⁶. These documents are crucial for

¹² PARES - Portal de Archivos Españoles, available:

[http://pares.mcu.es/ParesBusquedas20/catalogo/find?idAut=46964&archivo=6&tipoAsocAut=1&nomAut=Pedro%20IV%20\(1319-1387.%20rey%20de%20Arag%C3%B3n\)](http://pares.mcu.es/ParesBusquedas20/catalogo/find?idAut=46964&archivo=6&tipoAsocAut=1&nomAut=Pedro%20IV%20(1319-1387.%20rey%20de%20Arag%C3%B3n)) (accessed on December 26, 2024).

¹³ Total consists of 33 letters, which are numbered as follows: 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 83 (a different Marinid letter from the previous one), 84, 84 (another different Marinid letter), 85, 86, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 112, and 140.

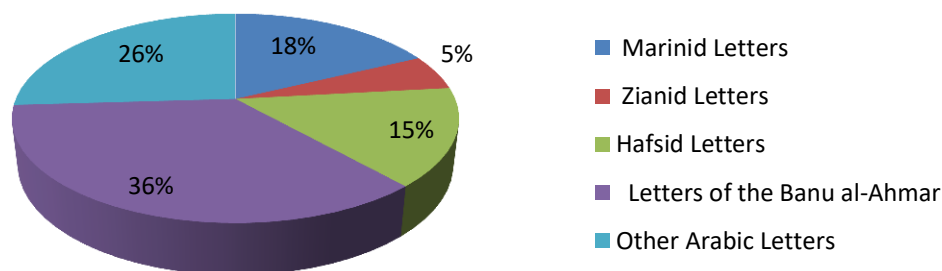
¹⁴ We have only relied on the documents sent by the Zayyanid authority and did not address the letters written when Tlemcen was under Marinid influence. The total number of these letters is 10, and they are numbered as follows: 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 111, 113, 114, 137, and 167.

understanding the political, social, and cultural interactions between North African and Iberian kingdoms during the medieval period.

The remaining 41 letters in the archive, though fewer in number, represent different historical periods, with particular emphasis on the Mamluk era, one of the most important periods in Islamic medieval history. These letters offer a glimpse into the diplomatic and trade relations between the Mamluks and various North African dynasties and Spanish kingdoms at that time.

In addition to the letters, the archive contains a variety of other ancient documents. Due to the passage of time and deterioration, some of these documents are difficult to read or fully comprehend. However, these items remain significant, as they may hold additional historical information that researchers may uncover in the future.

Statistical Data of Digitized Arabic Letters in the Aragon Archive



The distribution of diplomatic correspondence between the Kingdom of Aragon, North African states, and the Kingdom of Beni Ahmar reflects its political and geographical priorities during that period. The letters sent to the Kingdom of Beni Ahmar (36%) represent the largest portion, highlighting the significant importance of this neighboring state in Al-Andalus. Relations with Beni Ahmar were central, focusing on political, border, and trade matters between the two kingdoms. In second place is the Merinid Dynasty, accounting for 26% of the correspondence, reflecting strategic interest in the largest power in Morocco, a state with substantial influence in the Mediterranean region, both politically and commercially. The Zianid **state** represents 18% of

¹⁵ The total consists of 28 letters, which are numbered as follows: 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 138, 139, 141, 142, 143, 144, and 156.

¹⁶ The total consists of 66 letters, which are numbered as follows: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 38, 40, 41, 42, 51, 52, 53, 54, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 160, and 161.



the total letters, indicating medium-level diplomatic relations centered on specific issues, such as trade cooperation or limited political coordination in certain areas. The Hafsid state comes in at 15%, reflecting lesser interaction with this Eastern North African state, likely due to geographical distance and fewer shared concerns. Meanwhile, other correspondence (5%) represents limited communication with less influential entities, underscoring that most diplomatic interaction was concentrated on the key powers of the region. This distribution shows that the Kingdom of Aragon sought to maintain a balanced diplomatic approach with the various influential powers in the Mediterranean, focusing on geographically close and politically significant states such as Beni Ahmar and the Merinids.

5. The Importance of the Aragonese Archive Documents in Writing the History of the Zayyanid State in the Medieval Era:

Research methods, approaches, and tools vary significantly across different academic disciplines, each with its own set of guiding principles and techniques. For example, a novelist or literary scholar may begin their work with imagination and abstraction, drawing from personal creativity and the exploration of theoretical concepts to construct stories or analyze texts. Their research may involve subjective interpretation, symbolism, and the exploration of human experiences in a more abstract or artistic context. In contrast, a historian's approach is firmly rooted in empirical evidence and rigorous analysis. A historian cannot proceed with their work without having access to a wide array of both material and immaterial sources that provide factual accounts of the past. These sources, which can range from written documents like manuscripts, letters, and official records to unwritten forms such as oral traditions, artifacts, and visual representations, form the foundation of historical writing. They serve as the primary evidence on which historians build their interpretations, often requiring the use of specialized tools for critical analysis, such as archival research, paleography, and the study of historical contexts. The historian's work is defined by a commitment to accuracy, objectivity, and a careful examination of these diverse sources in order to reconstruct and understand past events and their implications for the present and future.

History, as a science aimed at understanding human development through the ages, is never written in a vacuum. As historian François Fustel de Coulanges expressed, "There is no history without documents; it is a science that does not imagine but observes. Like all sciences, it studies events, analyzes them, compares them, and examines their relationships. The historian searches for the event, understands it by studying documents in detail, and this method is consistent in every science based on careful observation"¹⁷.

¹⁷ Mohammed, Sahoud : "The Concept of Historical Document Between Scientific Knowledge and School Knowledge," *Journal of Teaching*, Issue 8, Morocco, 2016, p. 93

Documents are crucial for historical research as they are direct remnants of the thoughts and actions of our ancestors. Without documents, the history of many eras in human history would remain forever unknown. There is no substitute for documents, and where there are no documents, there is no history. This importance stems from the document's connection to the historical event¹⁸.

True historical understanding can only be achieved through direct observation, though this is practically impossible for historians due to the absence of the elements that constitute a historical event (people, time, the event itself). Therefore, understanding can only be achieved indirectly by studying the remnants of humanity, which are the results of events that took place. Written documents, when available, are often direct products or records of these events¹⁹.

Various opinions emphasize the importance of documents in historical research. Henri Marou²⁰ states that documents in historical writing are like fuel for a jet engine, while researcher Fredi Ben Slimane²¹ argues that the care and preservation of documents are essential measures of a nation's progress or backwardness. As he explains, "The difference between countries in their relations with documents is significant. Great nations are great because of the number of documents they hold in their archives, while underdeveloped nations are backward due to their lack of documents and the quality of their relationship with their cultural heritage."

As for our subject, the nature of the diplomatic and political documents found in the Aragonese Crown Archive – which have been digitized – is crucial for understanding the political, economic, and social relations between the Maghreb during the medieval era and European states. Based on this, the documents in the Aragonese Crown Archive are considered a valuable resource for researchers studying the Zayyanid state.

They cover substantial historical periods, particularly regarding economic history, as they contain correspondence related to trade in the Mediterranean basin and the commercial exchanges between the Kingdom of Tlemcen and Christian states. These letters provide a detailed account of the trade networks, goods exchanged, and the roles played by merchants and intermediaries in fostering economic relations between the Islamic Maghreb and Europe. By shedding light on trade practices, taxation, and the movement of goods, they contribute significantly to understanding the economic interdependence of the medieval Mediterranean world.

¹⁸ Abdel, Rahim El-Hassnaoui : "The Historical Document: An Epistemological Illumination," *Journal of Historical and Social Studies*, Issue 13, University of Nouakchott, 2016, p. 66.

¹⁹ Langlois and Seignobos, *Introduction to Historical Studies*, translated by Abdel Rahman Badawi, Publications Agency, Kuwait, 1981, p. 5.

²⁰ Henri, Irénée Marrou : *de la connaissance historique*, Seuil, paris, 1975, p50.

²¹ Ben Slimane, Farid : *Introduction to the Study of History*, University Publishing Center, Tunis, 2000.



Additionally, some of these letters, issued by both the Zayyanid and Aragonese official authorities, delve into critical historical events related to war, piracy, and naval battles. They document the strategies, challenges, and negotiations that shaped the political and military landscapes of the time. The agreements detailed in these correspondences, including truces, peace treaties, and wartime negotiations, reveal the complexities of diplomacy and conflict resolution between these two powers.

The significance of these letters lies not only in their content but also in their role as primary sources that bridge cultural and political divides. They offer historians unique insights into the nature of interfaith and intercultural relations, highlighting both cooperation and conflict in a region marked by diversity. Moreover, the preservation and study of these letters allow for a deeper exploration of how these historical interactions shaped broader Mediterranean dynamics, making them invaluable for both economic and political historiography.

Some letters written by the Marinid sultans during the periods of political interruption of the Zayyanid state, when Tlemcen was under the rule of the Marinid Sultan Abu al-Hasan, are also included. Below are examples of these letters:

- **Letter No. 88:** Dated 09-02-1323 (1st of Safar 723 AH), this letter from Hilal bin Abdullah, the minister of the Zayyanid Sultan Abu Tashfin I, is a response to the King of Aragon's request regarding the release of 24 Christians.
- **Letter No. 89:** Dated 08-06-1327 (7th of Rajab 727 AH), this letter from Sultan Abu Tashfin I to the King of Aragon concerns the sending of ambassadors to negotiate a peace treaty between the two parties.
- **Letter No. 90:** Dated 08-06-1327 (17th of Rajab 727 AH), this letter from Hilal bin Abdullah, the Zayyanid minister, to the King of Aragon relates to the negotiations for a peace treaty.
- **Letter No. 91:** Dated [723-724 AH], this letter mentions a copy of the letter in the 24th of Rabi al-Thani without specifying the year and is from the Sultan of Tlemcen to the King of Aragon regarding the release of Christian prisoners.
- **Letter No. 92:** Dated 14-05-1330 (14th of Rajab 730 AH), this letter from the Sultan of Tlemcen to Alfonso IV King of Aragon addresses a response to a letter sent by Alfonso IV with his ambassador.

- **Letter No. 111:** Dated 23-02-1360 (04th of Rabi al-Thani 761 AH), this letter is a complaint to Pedro IV King of Aragon regarding Catalan piracy in the port of Oran, and the sending of a diplomat to negotiate.
- **Letter No. 113:** Dated 11-12-1362 (23rd of Safar 764 AH), this letter from the Zayyanid Sultan of Tlemcen to Pedro IV King of Aragon covers several points, including the refusal to sign an agreement on the release of Christian prisoners proposed by the King of Aragon.
- **Letter No. 114:** Dated 18-12-1362 (29th of Safar 764 AH), this letter is a peace treaty for five years between Sultan Abu Hamu Musa II of the Zayyanid state and the King of Aragon.
- **Letter No. 137:** Dated [727-730 AH], this letter is a proposal for an alliance to facilitate the entry of armies into Bejaia and Tunisia.
- **Letter No. 167:** Dated 1236-1282 (633-680 AH), this letter addressed to Yagmurassan includes a matter related to a message of intercession that is illegible.

• Conclusion

In conclusion, the digitized archive of the Aragon Crown, with its wealth of documents and letters written in Arabic, represents an invaluable resource for understanding the complex diplomatic, political, military, and economic history of medieval Morocco, and specifically the history of Tlemcen during the Ziyaniid period. This archive provides a rich repository of primary sources that extend across a wide range of research areas, offering a unique lens through which to examine the intricate relationships between the Muslim states of North Africa and the Christian kingdoms of Europe during the medieval era. The documents contained within this collection not only document political and diplomatic relations but also provide significant insights into the economic exchanges, including trade and taxation practices, as well as the social interactions between different cultures and religious communities. These letters and records shed light on various aspects of everyday life, from economic transactions to the social dynamics between rulers and their subjects, offering a more nuanced understanding of the period.

Furthermore, the archive is crucial for shedding light on military activities, including strategic alliances, prisoner exchanges, and the issue of maritime piracy, all of which are documented through the terms of agreements and other correspondence between the contracting parties. Such details deepen our understanding of the broader geopolitical landscape of the Mediterranean during the medieval period and underscore the complex nature of interactions between North Africa and Europe.



Another significant contribution of this digitized archive is its ability to directly provide historians with access to the original Arabic texts of these documents, which has traditionally been a considerable challenge due to the fragmented nature of such sources, often scattered across different regions and housed in libraries and archives worldwide. The digitization of these materials allows for efficient and comprehensive access, overcoming the historical barriers related to the physical limitations of archives. This accessibility has been instrumental in addressing the scarcity of specialized studies in this field, which, despite the contributions of both Arabic and Western scholars, remains relatively underexplored.

By relying on these digitized documents, historians can now draw meaningful contrasts between the information provided by classical sources and the rich details offered by these primary Arabic texts. These documents encourage a more open, objective, and nuanced approach to studying the history of the Ziyānid state. When compared with secondary historical texts, which often offer broader generalizations, or when used to fill gaps left by traditional sources, these primary records significantly enrich our understanding of the period, providing a more complete and accurate picture of historical events. As such, the digitized archive not only enhances current research but also holds immense potential for future scholarly endeavors, offering new avenues for exploration and deepening our understanding of the interconnectedness of medieval Mediterranean societies.

Future research on the digitized archive of the Aragon Crown could explore several promising avenues. One potential area is the study of economic exchanges between North African Muslim states and European Christian kingdoms, particularly through trade, taxation, and social interactions. Additionally, the impact of military alliances, naval conflicts, and piracy, as documented in the archive, could provide a deeper understanding of the geopolitical dynamics of the Mediterranean. Comparative studies between these primary sources and classical historical accounts could reveal new insights, while interdisciplinary research could further enhance our understanding of the era's social, political, and cultural complexities. Lastly, expanding access to more documents from other regions and time periods would allow for a more comprehensive view of Mediterranean history.

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