

SUMMARY: The document below is the entry on the Patent Rolls of the grant of denization on 6 June 1572 to the Italian master of fence, Rocco Bonetti (d.1587), alluded to in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* ('the very butcher of a silk button').

Bonetti married Eleanor Burbage (d.1574), as her fourth husband, at St Bartholomew the Less on 10 July 1567. For Eleanor Burbage, see the will of her brother, Robert Burbage (d.1575), who sold his manor of Theobalds alias Tongs to Oxford's father-in-law, Lord Burghley, TNA PROB 11/57/448, and the will of her third husband, Oliver St John (buried 19 April 1571), TNA PROB 11/53/192.

On Leicester's recommendation, Queen Elizabeth granted Bonetti a coat of arms by letters patent at Kenilworth on 14 August 1568 as Rocho, son of Alvisè d' Bonettis of Baresi beyond the Goggia in Valle Brembana in the lordship of Bergamo under the rule of the Republic of Venice. See Siddons, Michael Powell, *The Heraldry of Foreigners in England 1400-1700*, (London: Harleian Society, 2010), New Series, Vol. 19, pp. 38-40.

For the grant of denization see also Page, William, ed., *Letters of Denization and Acts of Naturalization for Aliens in England, 1509-1603*, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, Vol. VIII, 1893, p. 26 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=HJZAAQAAMAAJ&pg=PR2&lpg=PR2&dq=%22Letters+of+Denization%22&source=bl&ots=w9nhMV892-&sig=Ax-cEFBOufD04LOm1ycdnXj33Qs&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CFUQ6AEwDWoVChMIhKrkg_DFxwIVSSyICh0bowW8#v=onepage&q=%22Letters%20of%20Denization%22&f=false.

For Bonetti's birthplace of Baresi, near Roncobello, see:

<https://www.google.ca/maps/@45.952682,9.7307083,14z>.

Bonetti is described in the grant as 'Bergamask'. From the OED:

Bergamask

2. *A native or inhabitant of Bergamo.*

1602 *J. Marston Hist. Antonio & Mellida Induct. sig. A3^v, A wealthie mountbanking Burgomasco's heire of Venice.*

For Bonetti's rank of captain, see British Library, MS Add. 15215 at:

http://searcharchives.bl.uk/primo_library/libweb/action/dlDisplay.do?docId=IAMS032-002086918&vid=IAMS_VU2&indx=1&dym=false&dscnt=1&onCampus=false&group=ALL&institution=BL&ct=search&vl%28freeText0%29=032-002086918

Copy of Letters of Emanuel Philibert, Duke of Savoy, appointing Rocco Bonetto di Barrisy his Captain in ordinary, dated 29 June, 1569, Italian.

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<http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/>

Emanuel Philibert (d. 30 August 1580), an ally of Philip II of Spain, was Duke of Savoy from 1553 to 1580. In 1554 Philip II attempted to arrange Philibert's marriage to the future Queen Elizabeth. On 9 July 1559 Philibert wed Margaret of France (d.1574), the sister of Henri II.

See Yonge, Charlotte M., ed., *The Youth of Queen Elizabeth by Louis Wiesener*, (London: Hurst and Blackett, 1878), Vol. I, p. xi at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=iowBAAAAQAAJ&pg=PR11&lpg=PR11&dq=%22Queen+Elizabeth%22+%22Emmanuel+Philibert%22&source=bl&ots=PkRTDEhzrL&sig=pDcnBYiGXWlwpT-2rSVSDDB0uJg&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CDAQ6AEwBWoVChMIRl-w04SGyAIVx0WICH3oCggj#v=onepage&q=%22Queen%20Elizabeth%22%20%22Emmanuel%20Philibert%22&f=false>.

Rochus Bonetto de Baressis Bargamascenci Capitaneus infra t{er}ritor{ium} & D{omi}niu{m} Venecianu{m} in Italia oriund{us} seu quocumq{ue} alio no{m}i{n}e T{este} R{egine} apud West{monasteriu}m vj die Iunij [] p{ro} decem solid{is} solut{is} in Hanap{er}io

[=Rocho Bonetto of Baresi, Bergamask, captain within the territory and dominion of Venice, born in Italy, or by whatsoever other name. Witness the Queen at Westminster on the 6th day of June, for ten shillings paid into the Hanaper.]