

SUMMARY: The document below is the record, apparently taken from a contemporary document in the city of Bergamo, of a 1578 grant by Queen Elizabeth augmenting the coat of arms of the Italian master of fence, Rocco Bonetti (d.1587), alluded to in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* ('the very butcher of a silk button').

The Queen had originally granted Bonetti a coat of arms, on Leicester's recommendation, at Kenilworth by letters patent on 14 August 1568 as Rocho, son of Alvise 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.

Bonetti is alluded to as one of Leicester's servants in the anonymous *News From Heaven And Hell* (1588).

On 29 September 1578, the Privy Council requested the Mayor and Aldermen of London to grant Bonetti the freedom of the city. See TNA PC 2/12, ff. 261-2.

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

<https://www.google.ca/maps/@45.9554904,9.7499061,15z>.

For Bonetti, see also the will of his brother-in-law, Robert Burbage (d.1575), TNA PROB 11/57/448.

The record below is from Calvi, Donato, *Effemeride Sagro-Profana di Quanto di Memorabile Sia Successo in Bergamo*, (Milan: Francesco Vigone, 1676), p. 575 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=08han0d9K_cC&pg=PA575&lpg=PA575&dq=%22Rocco+Bonetti%22+%22Bergamo%22&source=bl&ots=xIA4igfQeu&sig=eZRurbWFzWTIH4LY6SQL2ts5G4Y&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CDUQ6AEwA2oVChMIkK6DzLjFwxIVxy2ICh08RAJr#v=onepage&q=%22Rocco%20Bonetti%22%20%22Bergamo%22&f=false.

Privileges, Honours, Graces

1578 Based on the qualities and worthy prerogatives of Rocco Bonetti of Baresi beyond the Goggia, with royal liberality Elizabeth, Queen of Great Britain, was pleased this day, as a sign of nobility and reward of honour, to add new accretions and enrichments to his coat of arms, willing him and his descendants to be honoured by all so that they may freely enjoy the granted graces. Reg. vetus Cancell. Ciuit. 66.

Priuilegi, Honori, Gratie

1578 Attese le qualità, & degne prerogatiue di Rocco Bonetti da Baresi oltre la gocchia, con regia liberalità piacque hoggi ad Elisabetta Regina della gran Bertagna, in segno di nobilità, & premio d'honore, far all' arma sua gentilitia nuoue aggiunte; & ampliacioni, volendo lui, & suoi eredi descendentí fossero da tutti honorati, onde liberamente potessero le concesse gratie godere. Reg. vetus Cancell. Ciuit. 66.