

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter, thought to date from 1584, from Rocco Bonetti to Sir Francis Walsingham (c.1532-1590) enclosing two informations, which have not survived, explaining the wrongs done to him by Hugh Hare and William Dool, and requesting Walsingham's intervention on his behalf. Bonetti is alluded to in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* as 'the very butcher of a silk button'.

For Bonetti see also the will of his brother-in-law, Robert Burbage (d.1575), TNA PROB 11/57/448, the allusion to him in the anonymous *News From Heaven And Hell*, and direct references to him or discussion of him in the following documents on this website:

Folger MS L.b.37; Folger MS L.b.352; Folger MS L.b.356; Folger MS L.b.357; Folger MS L.b.446; Loseley MS No. 1396; BL Cotton Caligula C VI; BL Cotton Galba C V, f. 37; BL Cotton Galba C V, f. 39; BL Cotton Titus B VII, f. 225; BL Lansdowne 830, f. 249; TNA PC 2/10, f. 358; TNA PC 2/10, ff. 395-6; TNA PC 2/12, ff. 261-2; TNA PC 2/12, ff. 261-2; TNA SP 46/125, f. 130; TNA SP 52/31, f. 34; TNA SP 78/9, f. 90; SHC LM/COR/3/372; SHC LM/COR/3/382; SHC LM/COR/3/383; SHC LM/COR/3/384; SHC LM/COR/3/386; SHC LM/COR/3/387; SHC LM/COR/3/388; TNA PROB 11/62/182; and TNA PROB 11/98/226.

For Thomas Sackville (c.1536-1608), 1st Baron Buckhurst, who was appointed to the Privy Council in February 1586, see the *ODNB* article.

For Dr William Aubrey (d. 25 June 1595) see the *ODNB* article.

Dr Dalton is unidentified. For pedigrees of the Dalton family, see Norcliffe, Charles Best, *The Visitation of Yorkshire in the Years 1563 and 1564*, (London: Harleian Society, 1881), Vol. XVI, pp. 85-8 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofyork00flow#page/84/mode/2up/>.

For Hugh Hare (d.1620), see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/hare-hugh-1544-1620>.

'Guglielmo Dool', mentioned in the letter below, is unidentified. According to Turner, however, there was an English master of fence named John Duel:

*In 1583 English Master John Duel was involved in a bizarre marriage scandal, and later he was killed by one of his own students.*

See Turner, Craig and Tony Soper, *Methods and Practice of Elizabethan Swordplay*, (Southern Illinois University, 1990), p. 17 at:

[https://books.google.ca/books?id=3\\_9Wxi0d0cIC&pg=PA17&lpg=PA17&dq=%22fencing%22+%22John+Duel%22&source=bl&ots=T3sDPY6rNi&sig=WSItpPMWdwZefYBpFbD7dv2TDoo&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CDIQ6AEwBWoVChMIwJkqM2fxwIVzJmlCh1Hjwi6#v=onepage&q=%22fencing%22%20%22John%20Duel%22&f=false](https://books.google.ca/books?id=3_9Wxi0d0cIC&pg=PA17&lpg=PA17&dq=%22fencing%22+%22John+Duel%22&source=bl&ots=T3sDPY6rNi&sig=WSItpPMWdwZefYBpFbD7dv2TDoo&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CDIQ6AEwBWoVChMIwJkqM2fxwIVzJmlCh1Hjwi6#v=onepage&q=%22fencing%22%20%22John%20Duel%22&f=false).

For the letter, see also Lemon, Robert, ed., *Calendar of State Papers Domestic Series of the Reign of Elizabeth 1581-1590*, (London: Longman, Green, 1865), p. 217 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/cu31924091775266#page/n225/mode/2up>.

In all humility I beseech your Excellency to consider the two informations here enclosed, and that it will please you to give order that I may have good and speedy execution, since Hugh Hare has never been willing to make restitution to me according to the trust committed to him, as he was requested to do by her Serene Majesty's most wise [+Privy] Council, as Lord Buckhurst and Doctors Dalton & Aubrey can and will testify whenever the said Council shall be pleased to call them, as others will do concerning William Doel, who not only deprived me of my house, but striking my name from the lease and putting in his own, has sold it, and stripped me of all my goods. With which I cease to trouble you further. I ask God to grant you all happiness and content, and with all humility I kiss your hands.

Your Excellency's most assured(?) servant,

Rocco Bonetti

1 Io con ogni humilta suplico S{ua} S{ignoria} Ill{ustrissi}ma a uoler' considerar' le due infor:

2 mazioni qui incluse e che le piaccia di dar' ordine ch' io habbia

3 buona & spedita essecuzione Impero che quello Hugh Hare

4 non ha mai voluto farmi restituzione secondo il Fidei comissogli

5 essendone stato richiesto dal sap{issi}mo Consiglio di S{ua} M{aes}ta S{erenissi}ma

6 come il Barone Bucharst i Dottori Daulton & Alberi

7 possono et uogliono testificare ogni volta che piacera

8 a detto consiglio no(?) di chiamarli come altresì faranno

9 di quello Guglielmo Doel il quale non solamente  
 10 m' ha privo della casa ma cassando(?) il mio nome  
 11 della lessa et mettendovi il suo l' ha venduta  
 12 et spogliatomi d' ogni mio bene con che cessando  
 13 di piu fastidirla le desidero da Dio ogni felicita  
 14 e contento e le bascio con ogni humilta le mani  
 Di S{ua} S{ignoria} Ill{ustrissi}ma affoz(?) { }mo Ser{uito}re  
 Rocco Bonetti

Endorsed:

(1) Al Ill{ustrissi}mo S{igno}re il s{igno}re Francesco valsingamo Primo secretario di Sua Alta Ser{enissi}ma [=To the most illustrious Francis Walsingham, Principal Secretary to her Most Serene Highness]

(2) From Rocco Bonnetti, to have order for th' expedition of his cause in controversy, whereof the particularities are enclosed.