
SUMMARY: The document below is a letter, dated 9 August 1583 but endorsed 8 July 1583, written by Rocco Bonetti (d.1587) to Sir Francis Walsingham (c.1532-1590), offering to accompany Walsingham to Scotland.

Bonetti is alluded to in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* as 'the very butcher of a silk button'.

For the letter, below, see also:

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/hbrowse?id=C7694488>.

For Rocco Bonetti, see 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 12/175, f. 104; 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.

Most illustrious and esteemed Sir,

My friend, Master Ley, coming to court, I did not wish, for the great obligation which for divers reasons I owe to your Excellency, to fail to write you these few lines for that I hear for a certainty that your Excellency intends shortly to journey to Scotland, if it please God, and for that occasion I offer my life and the sincere loyalty of my service, which, if your Excellency should deign to accept of, employ me to what purpose soever, even to the death, which I can perform worthy of you. And should your Excellency grant me that wished-for favour, that you would also deign to tell the above-mentioned bearer what I must do to put myself as soon as possible in readiness to perform my duty at your command. And thus I remain, kissing your Excellency's most illustrious and valorous hand and with all due reverence recommending myself to your Excellency. From London this day, the 9 of August, 1583.

Your Excellency's affied(?) and devoted servant,

Rocho Bonetti

Endorsed: To the most illustrious and esteemed Sir Francis Walsingham, her Majesty's Principal Secretary, and of her Privy(?) Council, at court

Endorsed: 1583, 8 July, Rocho Bonnetti

Ill{ustrissi}mo Sig{no}re et Sig{no}re mio senpre Oss{eruandissi}mo

1 Venendo il S{igno}r Ley mio amico in Corte no' o uolsuto

2 p{er} lobligo grande che io p{er} diuerse cause con V{ostra}

3 Sig{nori}a Ill{ustrissim}a falire di scriuerle queste quatro

4 rieghe p{er} cio che io intendo essere cosa certa che

5 V{ostra} S{ignoria} Ill{ustrissim}a si apreata diuolere in breue metersi

6 a camino p{er} far il viaggio di scocia se cosi sara

7 il piacere del eterno i Dio Et p{er} tal occasione io

8 li offero la vitta mia con la fidelta sincera della

9 mia seruitude laquale V{ostra} S{ignoria} Ill{ustrissim}a dignandose di

10 abctarla la sipotra rendere sarta dinplegarla in

11 qual siuoglia cosa et sin alla morte domentre

12 che la mefacia degna di Lei et V{ostra} S{ignoria} Ill{ustrissim}a Facen

13 domi si agrato fauore la sidegni anchora dedir

14 aboca al surdeto aportatore cio che in questo che

15 i dafare acio che quanto prima mi pefia far

16 presto e metermi alordine p{er} onorarla esserui

17 i la et conqueto fine resto in baciandoli la

18 qui Ill{ustrissim}a et ualorossima sua mane et con ogni

19 debita e douta riuerencia ancora a V{ostra} S{ignoria} Ill{ustrissim}a

20 mi ricomando di Londra questo di 9 di a

21 gosto 1583.

D*i* V{ostra} S{ignoria} Ill{ustrissi}ma

Afie{ }to et diuoto Ser{uitor}e

Rocho bonetti

Endorsed: Al Ill{ustrissi}mo S{igno}re et mio S{igno}re Oss{eruandissi}mo il sig{no}re
Franc{esc}o Valzingam p{rim}o Secretario di S{ua} Ma{ies}ta et del suo Scr{ }mo(?)
Conciglio, In Corte