

Lisabetta von Holberg, Empress of the Casinean Empire,

I am given to understand you have taken your first consort. Congratulations. Such an achievement is befitting of a ruler such as you; I myself enjoy the attention of no less than seven consorts who are pleased to give to me their affections.

Although we are rivals, although your Empire continues to challenge our rightful rule of the Bay; although we enjoy unmatched control of the sea and the coast; I recognise that we are of equal status, although my power outstrips yours. It would, hence, be churlish of me not to offer a gift to you in celebration.

Within you will find a portion of salt; upon the salt mines is the power of a Salt Lady built. It is a traditional gift between peers. You will also find a circlet which once belonged to a predecessor of yours, the Emperor Barrabas. It has a power within in it that I am sure gave him the audacity to attempt what he attempted, and I recognise that audacity even as you must surely acknowledge its foolishness. I have no need of such a thing; I have supreme confidence in my own will. I trust it will have some meaningful value to you.

I wish you a fine wedding night,

Salt Lady Suriad