I, Hans Maye from Bibergau,\(^1\) acknowledge and make known publicly with this document before one and all that when I was held in the jail of the illustrious and high-born princes and lords, Lord Casimir and Lord Georg, as the reigning oldest brothers, Margraves of Brandenburg, etc. my gracious lords, in Kitzingen and spent some time there at the request and desire of the honorable and steadfast Hans von Gnodstadt\(^2\) of Bibergau because of allegations concerning the recent uprising and the damage to his castle,\(^3\) for which reason he filed a complaint with my above-named gracious lords, the Margraves, seeking that I be sentenced to death, but after numerous attempts at negotiation, a decision and order was finally given by my above-named gracious lords that I be released from the above mentioned jail upon payment of my board, renunciation of retaliation forever, and guarantors, especially considering that the said Hans von Gnodstadt would be permitted, wherever he had not been fully satisfied with my release, that one should allow him to inflict corporal punishment on me according to the tenets of my gracious lords’ procedures in capital crimes\(^4\) as appropriate, etc. and he wanted no part of it. Whereupon, I, as described above, was released from jail with guarantors, promise, and payment of my board for which I am extremely grateful. Therefore I thus vow, pledge and promise with my sworn oath and in truth, uncoerced and unforced to refrain\(^5\) from retaliating, contesting or seeking vengeance for my confinement and the proceedings and whatever happened to me there against my cited gracious lords, the Margraves, their princely graces' heirs, lands, and people, subjects and relatives, and those who owe allegiance to their graces, clerical or secular whatever rank, eminence, or status they may be and in
particular against their graces’ current and future officials, the mayor and Council of Kitzingen, all residents, burghers, and the community itself; in addition, Hans Gnodstadt, named above, and his subjects and otherwise (P 2) all those who had a hand or took part in my confinement and what ever happened to me there, providing aid, support, supplies or services, privately or publicly, knowingly or unknowingly, including those who were or might have been related to and involved in it, in words or deeds, in thoughts or actions, nor in any other way or means also from making or causing anything to happen either by me or anyone else that someone could or might imagine or plan, nor shall or will I ever stand or do anything against my forenamed gracious lords, the Margrave Casimir and Margrave Georg of Brandenburg etc. their graces’ heirs, lands and peoples, subjects and relations, clerical and secular, noble and common, rather if in the short or long term I had any quarrel with their graces’ subjects relatives or those who owe allegiance to their graces and they them, whatever the matter might be, in each case to be satisfied every time with friendly resolution and take it to the courts where each resides or normally belongs and not to contest or try or proceed with this elsewhere by no means, on my honor. And for greater assurance of all this and the certain execution of everything written above, I, Hans Maye, named above, have selected as good and equal guarantors and select them as named herewith by power of this document the honorable Fritz Maye, Philips Fuchs, Hans Flurheim,7 and Reichart Striffler, all from Bibergau, my dear brother, brothers-in-law, and friend such and on condition that if I should break and not uphold (P 3) my promise not to seek vengeance, as described above, in one or more articles, as contained and shown in this document, something that, however, in no way shall happen and from which God may forever protect me, then shall my said guarantors as soon as they are reminded
and notified of this, pursue and search for me, and return me again to the jail from which I have just been released, all this due before the next following month has elapsed; if, however, they could not capture and return me again to this jail by the established deadline, then shall each guarantor deliver himself in person to the above mentioned jail in my stead and make amends for the crime and offense committed by me to my gracious lords, the Margraves, named above, and pay to those persons who sustained injury because of that offense, compensation and damages and to leave said jail only with the knowledge and consent of my fore-mentioned gracious lords, the Margraves. And I, Hans Maye, named above, also pledge and promise with my sworn oath and in truth for myself, all of my heirs and beneficiaries herewith by power of this document to faithfully uphold everything that has been written regarding me in good faith and true, firm, resolute, and steadfast fashion; additionally to hold my guarantors, named herein, harmless for their service as guarantors and as such, we, the four guarantors, previously named, Fritz Maye, Philips Fuchs, Hans Flurheim, and Reichart Striffler acknowledge our service as guarantors. We also pledge and promise by the following sworn obligations and in truth to uphold, execute, and fulfill our service as guarantors as described above and everything that refers to us in this document in good faith and in true, firm, (P 4) resolute, and steadfast fashion and that none of us will pass off the search and pursuit in above mentioned circumstances onto another nor excuse ourselves from such, rather as described earlier and afterward to be and remain good guarantors and to help assure that this promise not to retaliate shall be carried out, honored, and executed without dispute, debate, argument, and excuse. Thus then I, the above named offender, and we, the above cited guarantors, have given the honorable and reputable Conrad Gutmann, our above named gracious lords’, the Margraves of Brandenburg, etc., Castner and local judge in Kitzingen, our hands in faith to faithfully uphold each and every point of this promise.
as far as they relate to each of us (as described above) in
their princely lords’ stead and additionally have raised our fingers
to swear an oath to God and
on Holy Scripture,⁹ and to authenticate all of this
have made a fervent request of the honorable Thoma Huble,¹⁰ and
Michael Berwing,¹¹ both burghers of Kitzingen, such that they
have publicly impressed their own seals in this document
at the end of the text as certification, which action
we the two notaries, just named, confirm to duly enact in response to
the fervent requests of all of you, yet without harm coming to us and
our heirs, given on the Feast Day of Matthew, apostle and evangelist
after Christ’s birth, our dear lord, fifteen hundred
and in the twenty-fifth year. ¹²
(two seals)
(Pages 5, 6, 7 blank)

¹ village about 10 km north of Kitzingen, west of the Main
² Wikipedia notes that a knightly dynasty with the family name „von Gnodstadt“ can be traced back to the 12th century in this region. Gnodstadt itself is a small village near Marktbreit about 10 km s of Kitzingen.
³ In his description of the events of 1525 during the Peasants’ War in Kitzingen, Sebald Ranft reports that the citizens had to pay a fee of 2 ½ guilders each to compensate the nobility for any damage to their residences and were given 1 ½ years to pay off the debt (Bernbeck 103).
⁴ Reference here is to the Brandenburgica from 1516, based on the Bambergensis from 1509.
⁵ verbs don’t appear in the original until ll. 43-44.
⁶ Literally, “without malice.”
⁷ An Oswald Flurheim was a member of the Outer Council at this time ; in 1520 he was listed as a “Neubürger.” (see Bátori, 409ff.)
⁸ From the report of Gutmann’s death in Bernbeck’s Chronik on July 20, 1526, we learn he was an much unloved figure in town, not only as tax collector, but also because he did all he could to turn the Margrave against the citizenry of Kitzingen and showed no mercy in punishing those involved with the peasant uprising (Bernbeck 105).
⁹ MS 1262, dated July 30, 1523, changes the formula so the released criminal is swearing to God and on Holy Scripture, rather than to God and the saints, as here. Thus, sometime between June 9, 1523 and July 30, 1523, Reformation doctrine was officially adopted in civil proceedings in Kitzingen. Rublack sees Reformation tendencies and tensions in Kitzingen in 1522 with the Council’s dispute with Würzburg about the assignment of a competent pastor in Kitzingen (36-46).
¹⁰ See Batori/Weyrauch, pp. 510-13, the Thomas Hübле described there died in 1535; member of the Inner Council 1503-1535
¹¹ See Bátori/Weyrauch, pp. 334-36 for Michel Berbing. He was a landowner and lived in the inner city at this time. Possible comingling there with data about his father, as a death date is given as April 3, 1517, impossible for this Michel Berbing.
¹² Feast day of St. Matthew the apostle and evangelist was Sept 21, in 1525 a Thursday.