I, Claus Eckerle, shoemaker assistant from Iphofen, acknowledge and make known publicly with this document before one and all that I was held in the jail of the illustrious and high well-born princes and lords, Lord Casimir and Lord Georg, as the reigning oldest brothers, the Margraves of Brandenburg, my gracious lords, in Kitzingen and spent several days there for well-deserved reasons, namely that I stole the following items in Kitzingen, namely a tin cup and then sold that cup for forty cents, further a brass candleholder and two pipes, and sold them for ten cents, and a pitchfork and horseshoe and sold them for nine cents as I have fully confessed freely and without compulsion before my guarantors, for which I deserved a more severe punishment but for the repeated, fervent intercession of my dear father, shoemaker and burgher of Iphofen, Hans Eckerle, and my brother Peter Eckerle and other good friends of mine and due to the great mercy and compassion shown to me for the love of God, I was again set free and released from the above mentioned jail without harm, upon payment of my board and any other costs accrued during that time, on the condition that I would atone for my actions with three large fines of ten pounds apiece, thirty pounds in total, to the rulers of Brandenburg, etc. and in addition I will and shall pay for the aforementioned stolen items to those I took them from, and should it be discovered that I had stolen more things in Kitzingen than I confessed to,
they will be repaid with a monetary settlement for which then I am and shall be 

extremely grateful. Therefore I pledge, vow and promise for myself and all my 

heirs and beneficiaries with my following sworn oath and in truth 

without coercion or compulsion to carry out and comply with those afore listed points and articles, 

additionally concerning my confinement and case and anything that happened to me then or 

related to them privately or publicly to refrain from retaliating, \(^1\) contesting, or seeking vengeance against 

my gracious lords, named above, the Margraves, their princely graces’ brothers and heirs, lands and 

people, subjects and relations, and those who owe allegiance to their graces and their subjects, 

clerical and 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; also 

all those who had a hand or took part in my imprisonment and what 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, from now on and forever 

in words or deeds, thoughts or actions, 

neither within nor outside the law, canonical or secular, nor by any other ways or means, 

also from making or causing anything to happen either by myself or anyone else 

that someone could or might imagine or plan. Also I shall and will neither stand or do anything against 

my forenamed gracious lords, the Margraves, their princely graces’ brothers and 

heirs, lands and people, subjects and relations, clerical and secular, noble and common, 

rather if in the long or short term I had any issues or matters to settle with their graces’ subjects
relatives or those who owe allegiance to their graces, their subjects and relatives
dealing with things outside of my promise not to seek
vengeance that I would be satisfied each time and in each case with a friendly resolution of the matter
and take it to the courts where each resides or normally belongs
and not to contest or try or proceed with this elsewhere in no
way or means, on my honor.² And for greater assurance of all this and the certain execution
of everything described above, I, Claus Eckerle, named above, have selected
as good and equal guarantors and name them herewith by the power of this document
as the honorable Hans Eckerle, my dear father, named above, and Peter Eckerle, my (Rev) brother such and on condition that if in the above matters in the short or long term I were to break and
not keep my word, as contained and shown in this document, which in no way shall be or happen and from which
may God forever protect me, so shall forthwith my named guarantors, on account of my broken word
and promise, stand bound and good for that and shall faithfully pursue and search for me,
bring me back to the jail, from which I was just released, or deliver themselves
in person to that very jail in my stead and, for my having broken my oath
and my crime, compensate and pay my forenamed gracious lords and their subjects whom I
would have offended. I, the forenamed Claus Eckerle, also pledge and promise
by my honor and in truth, as stated above, for me, my heirs and beneficiaries herewith
by power of this document to uphold everything written about me in this regard before and after in good faith,
and in true, firm, resolute, and steadfast fashion and additionally to hold my named guarantors with regards to their service
completely harmless. Thus we, the forenamed guarantors, Hans Eckerle and Peter Eckerle,
both from Iphofen, acknowledge our service as guarantors, pledge and promise by our honor and in truth, herewith by power of this document to perform, execute, and keep our word in all that concerns us in this document in true, firm, resolute, and steadfast fashion, as soon as notified and reminded of it, and thus to be and remain good guarantors, also to assure that this promise will be faithfully carried out, honored, and executed in each and every point without dispute, debate, argument, and excuse.

So then I, the forenamed Claus Eckerle, and we, the above named guarantors, each of us gave the honorable and notable Ulrich Ober, our above mentioned gracious lords’ the Margraves’ Vogt of Kitzingen, our hands on it to fulfill everything to the extent required of each (i.e. as above) in good faith in their princely graces’ stead at the place of oath-taking and have also raised our fingers to swear an oath to God and his saints and to authenticate all of this made a fervent request of the honorable Philipp Seubot from Kitzingen that he publicly impressed his own seal in this document at the end of the text as certification, which action I, the just mentioned notary, attest occurred by request yet with no harm coming to me or my heirs, given this Monday after St Sebastian’s Day in the year etc. in the twenty-first. 

(Seal follows)

1 these verbs do not appear until l. 32
2 Literally, “without malice.”
3 in 1521 St Sebastian’s Day (January 20) fell on a Sunday. Thus, the Monday following: January 21, 1521.