(Cover) Gunsmith Hans Mann’s
Promise Not to Seek
Revenge
______________
1525

(Obverse) I, Hans Mann,¹ gunsmith, fellow burgher of Kitzingen, acknowledge and make known publicly
with this document before one and all that I was held in the jail of my gracious lords,
the illustrious and high well-born princes and lords, Lord Casimir and Lord Georg,
as the reigning oldest brothers, the Margraves of Brandenburg, in Kitzingen
and spent several days there for well-deserved reasons, namely
that I violated the princely agreement and my own personal promise,
which had been concluded regarding the polishing mill I proposed,²
the contents of those very agreements and official documents, specifically
after the severe drought that befell us had led to a lack of water in the community
ponds³ in front of the Spatzer Gate⁴ as well as in the community creek that flows into the city
and the cloister mills and I, in violation of princely agreement
and my promise, impounded water at my polishing mill, contrary to amicable
negotiations to allow the water to flow, and additionally in the
perilous times before us was defiantly heard to say that if they took away
my water then I would join the rebellious peasants, by which
I acted in violation of the order issued by my above named gracious lords the Margraves
regarding the stated uprising and would have been deserving more severe punishment
and whereupon due to the fervent requests of my dear housewife
taking into consideration my little children I was mercifully and
graciously granted full release and freedom from the above mentioned jail
according to stated conditions and norms I herewith pledge and promise for myself and all my heirs by the following sworn obligations and by my good name by power of this official document to in the future better observe the above mentioned princely convention and my documented promise regarding the polishing mill I built in all their contents and to uphold them firmly and strongly and further not to oppose them; in addition, to refrain from seeking retaliation or a quarrel for the above mentioned confinement and proceedings and whatever happened to me during that time against my above named gracious lords, their princely graces’ subjects and relatives, clerical and secular, whatever rank, eminence or status they may be and specifically against their graces’ current and future officials, the Mayor and Council of Kitzingen, all residents, burghers, and the community itself; or otherwise against all those involved in my confinement, whether by advice or actions, including things planned or that might be from now on and forever, in words or deeds, advice or actions, neither inside or outside the law, canonical or secular, nor otherwise by any other way or means that one might imagine, nor allow anyone to act on my behalf but rather I shall and will allow normal justice be served to each and every subject and relative of their princely graces, clerical or secular and not to take them to trial or proceed with a case elsewhere by no way or means, on my honor. And thus to provide greater assurance of this promise I have selected Cuntz Mann my dear son as a guarantor and he will swear for me that he shall be pledge and security, bond and personally responsible for everything here, that where I break my word, he shall present himself in my place, and I, too, Cuntz Mann, just named, acknowledge my service as guarantor, described above, pledge, and promise by my good name herewith by power of this document to fulfill this service faithfully and to refrain from resisting or opposing it; thus then do I the above-named Hans Mann and with him I, Cuntz Mann, father and son,
have given the honorable and reputable Contz Schwarz,  
(Reverse) our above named gracious lords the Margraves’ Vogt of Kitzingen our hands

50 in their gracious lords’ stead to faithfully uphold everything as stated above and in addition have raised our fingers and sworn an oath to God and on Holy Scripture and to validate all in an official record both of us together made a fervent request of the noble and strong nobleman Christophe von Ehenheim\(^7\) from Sickershausen\(^8\) our generous nobleman such that he has publicly affixed his own seal

55 at the end of the written section in this document as certification, which action I the notary just named confirm to duly perform in response to a request yet without harm coming to me or my heirs, given on the Friday after Judica in the year etc. in the twenty-fifth.\(^9\)

(seal)

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\(^1\) Information about Hans Mann during the uprising in town comes from Google books: *Archiv des Historischen Vereins von Unterfranken und Aschaffenburg, Bände 35-36*, p. 96. On the list of particular burghers who were to be punished announced before Margrave Casimir in Kitzingen appears „Hans Man buchsenschmit.“ The editors’ footnote 6 reads: “He was one of the leaders of the uprising. At his instigation the Castner was taken prisoner and weaponry aimed at the town hall. He was also responsible for foiling attempts by the community to negotiate with the Margraves, even though the year before he had received their authorization to construct his gunpowder mill.” ( „Dieser war einer der Haupträdelführ der. Auf seine Veranlassung war der Castner gefangen genommen und das „Geschoss“ auf das Rathaus gerichtet worden. Auch war er es, der die von der Gemeinde beabsichtigte Annäherung an den Markgrafen vereiteln half obgleich er ein Jahr zuvor zur Errichtung der Pulvermühle die markgräfliche Genehmigung erhalten hatte.”)

Mann was elected to be on a committee after the uprising in town in April 1525: p. 44-46 “Hernach geschrieben Person sint von einer gemeind in der entstanden aufrur inlaut obgemelter schriften an unsern gnedigen hern gescheen zu eim ausssschus erweit worden und auf begern einer gemeind verordenten ausssschus sint in acht rathsperson zugegeben worden nach derselbigen rath sie sich erboten haben zu handeln. und ist auch darumb furgenomen worden, ob durch den ausssschus in irem rat schlag etwas hitzig zu nacheit einer gemeinen stat furgenomen wurde, das die vom rath sie davon zu weisen und auf linder leidenliche weg sie zu weisen und, sovil in irem thon zu vermögen hetten und volgen ernstlich die acht person, dem aussschus uf ir begern auss dem rathe zugeordent.“ Hans Man (Mann), buchsenschmit; footnote 4: Derselbe, der i. J. 1524 die Polier-, Schlief- und Pulvermühle erbaut hatte.

\(^2\) Mann’s mill is still in existence in 1549 when Bernbeck describes the layout of the city: „In addition to the great and navigable river, the Main, four brooks run through Kitzingen, on the right bank namely the Erhard Mill Stream and the Repperkammer Mill Stream, both of which come from outside the city limits and empty into to ponds outside the Spacer Gate, but which before that drive mills. Below the ponds two mills have been erected on the Erhard Mill Stream, namely a grain mill and a powder mill,“ the latter being Mann’s mill.

Information about Mann’s mill comes from the gun club in Kitzingen: „Was die Beschaffung des Pulvers betrifft, mag es hier wie anderwärts geschehen sein. Zuerst kaufte man dasselbe von umherziehenden Fremden, die von einer Schützengesellschaft empfohlen waren, dann ließ man

3 In 1512, in a list of properties that serve the community one finds „the pond“: „6) Des Sees halben solle desselben Nützung verehrt und zu gemeinem Nutzen verwendet werden.“ (Bernbecks Chronik, p. 85)

4 One of the four gates between the outer city and the countryside, two led to or across the Main, one to the cemetery to the west and one (Spatzer Tor?) to the northwest. Also from: Dr. Helga Walter, Kitzingen am Main in alten Ansichten Band 1 #65: “Die meisten stehen nicht mehr, so die Spatzer Mühle der Würzburger Straße 29 auf unserem Bild. Sie lag an der äußeren Stadtmauer am Klostermühlbach zwischen äußerem und innerem Spatzertor, . . . .”

5 verb is not found until line 34 of original

6 Literally, “without malice.”

7 Wikipedia: Die Familie Ehenheim war ein fränkisches Adelsgeschlecht mit Sitz in Enheim, früher Ehenheim bei Martinsheim im Ritterkanton Odenwald. Enheim is adjacent to Gnodstadt (see MS 1264).

8 Sickershausen, formerly small village just 2 km east Kitzingen across the Main, has now been incorporated into greater Kitzingen.

9 Judica (second Sunday before Easter) fell on April 2 in 1525, thus the following Friday was April 7, 1525. This occurred 11 days before the uprising in the city on the 18th of April 1525, two days after Easter Sunday.