We, named as follows, Bernhard Franz from Buchbrunn,\(^1\) Hans Boxberger, Valentin Hartman from Gädheim\(^2\) near Schweinfurt, Valentin Zerrer from Herbolzheim,\(^3\) Hans Flurheim from Albertshofen,\(^4\) Balthasar Ross from Untereisenheim,\(^5\) and Veit Keller from Grafenrheinfeld,\(^6\) all at this time hired as vineyard workers residing in Kitzingen acknowledge and make known publicly with this document before one and all that we were detained in the illustrious and highborn princes and lords, Lord Casimir and Lord Georg, the ruling oldest brothers, the Margraves of Brandenburg etc., our gracious lords' jail and held several days there for good reason, namely because we flagrantly violated an ordinance of the honorable council, thus the community and citizenry of Kitzingen, and organized and instigated a secret conspiracy and confederacy in the city of Kitzingen to walk out on the lords\(^7\) we had been working for and thereby force them to give us, contrary to the mentioned Council ordinance, wine in the fields etc., and not being content with our plan but inciting and goading more workers in Kitzingen, approaching and persuading some in the streets and under the city gates, using force with others such that they and we, leaving work on a work day, gathered together in a tavern in great numbers without our lords' knowledge and walked out on our lords where, being caught in the act, we were arrested by virtue of our offense and detained in the above mentioned jail. Then, I, the above named Veit Keller from Grafenrheinfeld, also caught and arrested in this matter, flagrantly broke the promise imposed upon my release which I vowed to keep and swore in order to win the court's favor and be released from the jail with two
burghers of Kitzingen within a few hours of my discharge and cursed those men in the street as they approached me and then we then we, the others of us as mentioned above, also acted against our sworn promise that we had made to the officials and a meeting of the Council, wherefore, for our secret conspiracy and confederacy, according to articles of imperial law, we would have earned and been deserving of severe corporal punishment on our persons but for the fact that upon the fervent appeals of our overseers and several of our friends and good supporters and due to the great mercy that one has shown us regarding this matter we were mercifully released and freed with harm from said jail on payment of board and any other costs we accrued related to it on the condition that we refrain from any such secret association in the future and show obedience to our lords and the authorities; in addition we shall not again work or serve in the city of Kitzingen but rather offer and perform service or work elsewhere from this time on--all until we are again graciously granted or receive permission for such things by the officials, and mayor and Council of Kitzingen, which we then accepted and agreed to with much gratitude and for which we shall and will always be grateful. Therefore we vow, pledge, and promise one and all for ourselves and all of our heirs and beneficiaries with our sworn oath, mentioned later, and in truth herewith by power of this document to refrain from seeking retaliation, quarrel, or vengeance for the above mentioned confinement and matters and what happened or was meted out to us there against our gracious lords, named earlier, their princely graces' brothers and heirs, their lords' lands and people, subjects and relatives, clerical and secular, from prelates, dukes, free knights and squires and those who owe allegiance to their graces and their subjects 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, citizens and the community itself and all those who took part in
or contributed to our confinement and what happened to us at and during that time, providing service, aid, supplies or support privately or publicly, knowingly or unknowingly including those who or might have been related to and involved in it, from now on and forever neither with words nor deeds, supplies or services, neither within nor outside the law, canonical or secular, nor otherwise by any other way or means also from making or causing to happen neither by ourselves nor anyone else that someone might or could imagine or plan but rather if in the near or distant future we had any issues to resolve or contest with their graces’ subjects, relatives, or those who owe allegiance to their graces and relatives that stand outside of our promise here that we would be satisfied each time with a friendly resolution of the matter and take it up before those courts where each one resides or normally belongs and not to contest or try or proceed with this elsewhere by no way or means, on our honor. And thus for greater assurance of all this and for the certain execution of everything written above, we, the above-named perpetrators, one and all, have selected as good, just guarantors and confirm their names by power of this document (p 4) the honorable Cuntz Frantz from Buchbrunn, Cuntz Volicher and Hans Schonman, both burghers of Kitzingen, Jorig Boxberger, Linhart Dramper from Weissenburg, Hans Linck from Scheinfeld, Jorig Leb from Marktbergel, Hans Krämer from Wirtenberg, Balthas Wilhem residing in Kitzingen, Caspar Craft from Oberpleichfeld, Hans Krämer from Untereisenheim, Jorig Rencker from Hammelburg, Hans Wagner from Tirschenreuth, Wolf Kaltenheuser from Nürnberg, and Cuntz Hohe from Hirschaid and for even more assurance each one of us, aside from serving as guarantors, has assumed liability for the others such that if one or more of us singly or as a group should break and not keep any of the above mentioned portions, points and articles as contained in the document as refer to us something that in no way shall be or occur and from which God shall forever protect us, then we, the offenders, shall forthwith be regarded, seen, and viewed as faithless and as perjurers and indeed be so, and, when we are brought back in, as described later, we shall and should
receive the justice due us in accordance with this matter and
in strictest measure without mediation
or mercy whatsoever; and our

125 named guarantors and the rest of us who did not break our and
their oaths, as described below,
as soon as they and we are reminded, notified or become aware
of this ourselves, shall be obligated and required
to faithfully search for and pursue those offenders

130 who did not keep their promise not to retaliate and
to return them again to the jail from which they
were just released, all this due before the next
following month has elapsed, where, however, the
guarantors or we could not capture the delinquents

135 and offenders by the time limit, set above, and
return them to the above mentioned jail, so then shall
(p 5) the above named guarantors along with the rest of us
again deliver ourselves in person to the above mentioned jail
in Kitzingen and redress the crime committed

140 against our gracious sovereign of Brandenburg etc., named above,
and make restitution and show obedience to them
regarding that of which we had been admonished
on our honor; and we, the forenamed guarantors, by name:
Cuntz Franz, Cuntz Welcher, Hans Schonman, Jorig Boxberger,

145 Linhart Dramprer, Hans Linck, Jorig Leb, Hans Kremer,
Balthas Wilhem, Caspar Craft, Hans Kremer, Jorig
Rencker, Hans Wagner, Wolf Kaltenheuser, and
Cunz Höhe acknowledge the above mentioned service as guarantors,
and also pledge and promise with our sworn

150 oath and in truth herewith by power
of this document to uphold all of that which is
written about and refers to us in this document in good faith,
and in true, firm, resolute, and steadfast fashion and that none
of us regarding the search and pursuit and the contingencies above

155 will make excuses or pass responsibilities
on to others, but rather to faithfully see and attend to
the honoring, execution, and fulfillment of this promise
not to retaliate; thus we, the above named offenders
and those making this promise, together and singly,

160 also pledge and promise for ourselves and all of our heirs, descendants,
and beneficiaries with our sworn oath, reported below,
as described above, to stand up for one another faithfully
and to provide faithful service as guarantors, as described above,
and this promise with all its contents, points,
and articles in good faith, and in true, firm, resolute, and steadfast fashion
and also to absolve each of us named here, as well as our guarantors,
and hold them completely harmless and to refrain
from resisting or opposing anything and everything here
without dispute, debate, argument, and
excuse, faithfully and on our honor. Thus we,
(p 6) the above mentioned seven offenders, and we, the above cited guarantors,
have given the honorable and reputable Philipp Seubot,
our above named gracious lords’ Vogt of Kitzingen,
our hands in faith to faithfully uphold each and every point
of this promise as far as they relate to each of us
in their princely lords’ stead
and additionally have raised our fingers
to swear an oath to God and his holy saints,
and to authenticate all of this have made a fervent request
of the honorable and wise Johann Besserer, currently
Schultheiß and Thoma Huble both 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 just named two notaries
confirm to duly occur in response to the request of all of you
yet without harm coming to us or our heirs, given on Cantate Sunday
in the year, etc., in the twenty-second. (two seals)

(1) a village about 5 km n of Kitzingen along the Main
(2) a village about 12 km e of Schweinfurt or about 50 km n of Kitzingen
(3) a village about 40 km se of Kitzingen
(4) Albertshofen, written as “Alberhoven” in the manuscript, is a village about 5 km n of Kitzingen “... Warhafttige Historia so sich am heiligen Ostertage dieses LXXI Jars zu Alberhofen, zwischen Kitzingen vnd Tettelbach [Dettelbach] gelegen, ... begeben vnd zugetragen (Die ersten deutschen Zeitungen, Emil Weller Tübingen 1872, p. 269)
(5) a village about 20 km n of Kitzingen on the Main; just across the river from Fahr (see MS 1257)
(6) a village just south of Schweinfurt, about 40 km n of Kitzingen
(7) that is, the landowners who had hired them
(8) “then we” is repeated in the original
(9) In reference perhaps to the Brandenburgica, based on the Bambergensis, which the Margraves of Brandenburg-Ansbach adapted for their territory in 1516, a forerunner of the Carolina, Charles the Fifth’s empire-wide code of 1532.
(10) herschaft can refer to the town authorities as a collective, or those who owned the land on which the men were working.
(11) verb doesn’t appear until line 84
(12) Literally, “without malice.”
(13) Dramper is one of the vineyard workers guilty of conspiracy in ms 1257. This may indicate that except for the first four guarantors here (the first described with the honorific “honorable,” the next two citizens, the fourth
related to the prisoner) the rest may be vineyard workers as well. This would explain the diffuse nature of their origins.

14 Marckscheinfelt = village about 30 km se of Kitzingen (Scheinfeld, Marktscheinfeld, Mittelfranken, Herrschaftsgericht Schwarzenberg, Stadt mit 160 Häusern 940 Einwohnern, Sitz des Herrschaftsgerichts, kathol Pfarrei, Kapelle, 109 Juden, fürstlichem Spital, Mühlen, Brücken über die Seine, und den Stadtgraben und Weinbau (from topographisch, etc., V, p. 819)

15 Bergell = village about 50 km s of Kitzingen, today Marktbergel. From Topograph, etc., vol I, p. 424: “Bergel (Markt-) (Marktbürgel) Bayern, Mittelfranken Landgericht Windsheim, Markt mit 148 Häusern und 838 Einwohnern, evangelischem Pfarramt des Dekanats Windsheim, 2 Kirchen, Mag III, Post-Expedition Hopfen- und Getreidebau und 2 Mineralquellen, die jedoch wenig benutzt werden.”

16 Wirtenberg = Württemberg or Wittenberg?

17 Obernblaichfelt = village about 20 km n of Kitzingen, just west of Untereisenheim

18 a village about 20 km n of Kitzingen on the Main; just across the river from Fahr (see MS 1257)

19 Hamelburg = village about 60 km n of Kitzingen, today Hammelburg

20 city about 210 km e of Kitzingen on the Czech border, “Dirßenreut” in the manuscript

21 Cuntz Hohe also appears as a guarantor in MS. 1258.

22 Hirßhaid = village about 70 km e of Kitzingen, south of Bamberg, today Hirschaid

23 See Batori/Weyrauch, pp. 356-58; there “Hans Besserer, cited as Oberbürgermeister 1521 and Obervormundschaftspfleger 1522-25

24 in MS 1262: “Hannsen Besserer Des rats Der Zeit Schulthais Im Closter Zu Kitzingenn.” The cloister had its own jurisdiction, overseen by the abbess; it would not have been subject to the Margraves’ Vogt, thus a Schultheiß was appointed locally to oversee town-cloister interaction. Wikipedia: Kitzingen at the time of the Peasants War: “Auch das Kloster Kitzingen hatte Rechte in der Stadt, so erhob es unter anderem den Brückenzoll und stellte die Bau- und Marktpolizei. Viele Bürger mussten an das Kloster Abgaben für Häuser, Äcker oder Weinberge zahlen. Weiterhin verweigerte es den Bürgern den Bau eines eigenen Rathauses. Der Widerwillen gegen die Obrigkeit nahm mit der Zeit mehr und mehr zu und schlug schließlich in Hass um.

25 See Batori/Weyrauch, pp. 510-13, the Thomas Hüble described there died in 1535; member of the Inner Council 1503-1535

26 The fourth Sunday after Easter, in 1522: May 18, 1522.