I, Linhart Linck von Castell, acknowledge and make known publicly with this document before one and all that I was held in the jail of the illustrious, high-born princes and lords, Lord Casimir and Lord Georg, as the reigning oldest brothers, the Margraves of Brandenburg, etc., my gracious lords, in Kitzingen and spent several days there for well-deserved reasons, namely that in a tavern recently, when troops of the League arrived in Kitzingen, I acted improperly with the captain of the League’s cavalry troops who had been ordered on patrol in Franconia, was not prepared to get out of his way, and was otherwise heard to make disparaging remarks to him, for which I were deserving of more severe punishment but for the fervent negotiations of my guarantors, named below, and other good friends I was again set free and released from the above-named jail mercifully and without harm upon payment of my board and other costs I accrued there contingent on the following promise of guarantor service that I have taken upon myself and which I have freely accepted, thus I therefore vow, pledge, and promise with my sworn oath and in truth without coercion or pressure to refrain from retaliating, contesting, or seeking vengeance or my above-mentioned confinement and proceedings and what happened to me there against my said gracious lords, the Margraves, their princely graces’ brothers, heirs, lands and people, subject and relatives, and those who owe allegiance to their graces and their subjects, clerical or secular, whatever rank, eminence, or status they may be,
and in particular against their graces’ current and future officials, the mayor and the Council in Kitzingen all residents, burghers, and the community itself, and otherwise all those who had a hand or took part in my confinement 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 with it, from now on and forever, whether within or outside the law, canonical or secular, with words or deeds, thoughts or actions, nor otherwise by any other way or means also from making or causing anything to happen either by ourselves or anyone else that someone could or might imagine or plan. Nor shall or will I stand or do anything against my above named gracious lords, Margrave Casimir and Margrave Georg of Brandenburg etc., their graces’ heirs, lands and people, subjects and relatives, clerical or worldly, noble and common rather if in the long or short term I had any issues or matters to resolve with their graces’ subjects and relatives or those who owe allegiance to their graces and their subjects dealing with things outside of my promise not to seek vengeance that each time I would be satisfied with a friendly resolution and take the matter to the courts where each resides or normally belongs and not to contest, try or proceed with this elsewhere by no way or means, on my honor. And for greater assurance of all this and the certain execution of everything described above, so have I, the forenamed Linhart Linck have selected as good, equal guarantors and name them herewith by power of this document the honorable Peter Linck, my brother from Castell, and Christophe Hofmann from Haslach thusly and on the condition that if I break my word and fail to uphold my promise not to seek vengeance in one or more articles as contained and shown in this document, something that in no way shall be or occur and from which God may forever protect
me, then shall my named guarantors immediately
upon being reminded and notified of this
faithfully search for and pursue me, return
(P 3) me to the above-mentioned jail from which I have just
been released, by the deadline of the next following month.
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, Linhart Linck, 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 two guarantors, Peter Linck and
Christophe Hofmann previously named, acknowledge our service
as guarantors. We also pledge and promise by
the following sworn obligations and in truth
to faithfully discharge our duty as guarantors, described above,
and to uphold, execute, and fulfill
everything that refers to us in this document in true, firm, resolute, and
steadfast fashion and that none of us will pass off the search and pursuit
in above mentioned circumstances onto the other
or 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 Cuntz Schwarz,
our above named gracious lords’, the Margraves of Brandenburg, etc., Vogt 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,\(^5\) and to authenticate all of this have made a fervent request of the honorable Thoma Huble,\(^6\) burgher of Kitzingen, such that he has publicly impressed his own seal in this document at the end of the text as certification, which action I, the notary, just named, confirm to duly enact in response to the fervent requests of all of you, yet without harm coming to me and my heirs, given on the Wednesday following St. Ursula’s Day, in the year, etc. in the twenty-fifth. \(^7\)

(SEAL)

(Pages 5, 6, and 7 blank)

\(^1\) village about 16 km east of Kitzingen, today Castell. Also Wikipedia: “Die Castell sind ein fränkisches Adelsgeschlecht und regierten von 1202 bis 1806 die Grafschaft Castell, eine reichsständische Grafschaft im Fränkischen Reichskreis. Sie gehören somit als ehemals im Heiligen Römischen Reich reichsunmittelbar regierende Grafen und spätere bayerische Titular-Fürsten dem Hohen Adel an.” The city pastor of Kitzingen had duties in Kitzingen as well as in Castell, among other locations (Bátori 302, 473).

\(^2\) these verbs do not appear until l. 39.

\(^3\) Literally, “without malice.”

\(^4\) See entry in Eugen Huhn, Topologisch-statistisch-historisches Lexikon von Deutschland, II, S. 1026: „Haslach (Klein) Bayern, Mittelfranken, Landgericht Ansbach, ev Pfarrdorf mit 32 H u 215 E Haslach“ The pastor Christoph Hofmann is said to come from Onolzbach (Ansbach). However, the connection of Burghaslach to the criminal is closer: „the ms names the town simply Haslach, however the castle there was granted in fief to the counts of Castell, the lineage of the criminal. Wiki to the town: "Das Fürstlich Castellsche Schloss von Burghaslach hat eine Geschichte, die bis ins 14. Jahrhundert zurückreicht: Das CASTRUM HASELACH (die Burg Haselach) wurde vom Bischof Gottfried III. von Hohenlohe, Bischof von Würzburg von 1314 bis 1322, als Lehen an die Grafen von Castell verliehen."

\(^5\) 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).


\(^7\) In 1525, the feast of St Ursula was celebrated on Oct 21, a Saturday; thus, the following Wednesday was Oct. 25, 1525.