I, Hans Berchtelt from Hoheim, acknowledge and make known publicly with the 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, Margraves of Brandenburg, etc., my gracious lords, in Kitzingen and spent several days there for well-deserved reasons namely, that a few days ago in Hoheim I, contrary to the promise I gave not to seek vengeance, in my willfulness, and for no reason whatsoever, angrily lost my temper with several people from Hoheim, subjects of my above-named gracious lords, saying I was going home to get a gun and to kill one or two of them, and indeed did get up and go home and grabbed a gun with the intention of seeing it through—which, however, I was prevented from doing—thereby breaking my earlier promise not to seek vengeance and violating my vow and oath. Likewise, during the recent peasants’ revolt, I acted improperly in the presence of others for which I would have deserved loss of life and limb but for the fervent pleas and appeals that one entered on my behalf that mercy and favor be shown me that I was again set free and released mercifully and without harm from the above mentioned jail by paying board and other costs that I accrued during that time on condition that as a fine for my crime, I remit to my gracious lords, the Margraves, named above, five Rhenish guilder¹ and pay and hand them over to their graces’ officials in Kitzingen without delay by next fall. In addition, I may no longer attend any open meeting or gathering until permitted, all of which I accept and agree to with gratitude. Therefore in good will I pledge and promise for myself and all my heirs according to the obligations of my sworn oath as follows and in truth herewith by power of this document to make payment of the levied fine of five guilders faithfully and without impediment; in addition, to refrain² from retaliating,
contesting, or seeking vengeance for my confinement, described above, the proceedings, and what happened to me there against my gracious lords, named above, the Margraves, their princely graces’ brothers, heirs, lands, and people, subjects and relatives, clerical or secular, and those who owe allegiance to their princely graces and their subjects, whatever rank, eminence or status they may be, and in particular against their graces’ current and future officials, the mayor and Council of Kitzingen.

(P 2) all residents, burghers, and community itself; additionally against any Schultheiss, village manager, and the village of Hoheim 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 in it, from now on and forever in words or deeds, thoughts or actions, neither inside or outside the law, 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; rather I shall and will seek for any one of their princely graces’ subjects and relatives an orderly, friendly resolution of a matter and not to try them or contest or proceed with matters elsewhere in any way and by any means, on my honor. If, however, I should break or fail to uphold the promise not to seek vengeance, described above, in one or more parts to the extent contained and shown in this document, from which may God forever protect me, then I shall forthwith be taken for faithless and a perjurer and justice be meted out to me immediately upon being brought in again according to my crime as is appropriate. But if I could not be caught, then I shall relinquish all my possessions and property to my princely lord, named above; they shall have the power and authority to immediately take possession thereof, all without dispute, debate, argument, and excuse. Thus I, the above-named Hans Berchtheldt, have given the noble and respectable Contz Schwarz, my above-named gracious lords’, the Margraves’ Vogt in Kitzingen, my hand, in their princely graces’ stead, and faithfully swear to faithfully uphold each and every point described above and in addition, have raised my fingers to swear an oath to God and on Holy Scripture and to authenticate all of this have made a fervent request of the honorable and wise Johann Besserer of the
Council and Court in 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 perform in response to a fervent request yet without harm coming to me or my heirs, given on the Wednesday after the feast of Peter and Paul, apostles, etc. in the year, etc. in the twenty-fifth. 6

(seal)
(P 3 blank)


2 verbs here don’t appear in the original until l. 45

3 Compared with other manuscripts a section is missing here, was perhaps not copied, that deals with any future grievance one might have with any of these individuals or towns. The same abridged formulation is found in ms 1269.

4 Literally, “without malice.”

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

6 Feast day of Sts. Peter and Paul the Apostles was June 29. In 1525, this fell on a Thursday; thus the following Wednesday was July 5, 1525. Note that the uprising in town occurred on April 17-18. The blinding of the 58 rabble-rousers by the Margrave occurred on June 9. On June 18-19 Konrad Gutmann and Kunz Schwarz acceded to the request of the Town Council to forward the appeal of the clerics in town that the blinded be spared banishment to the Margrave via the Amtmann Ludwig von Hutten (Demandt 235-37).