I, Jost Mentler from Kaltensondheim, 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 was confined there for several days for well-deserved reasons, namely because one evening after the gates of Kitzingen had been closed approached the gates, addressed the gatekeepers rudely and kept demanding that they should open the doors again for me and let me out and when the gatekeepers amicably turned me away, saying that it was not in their power to do so, I ran ahead of the gatekeepers, placed myself at an intersection, lying in wait for them until they came along, where I accosted them, once again addressed them rudely and cursed them, drew my weapon, and intended to force them to open up for me, upon which they took me in custody and took me to the Vogt in whose house I again behaved in a very inappropriate, unrestrained, criminal and wanton way all of which was then reported with witnesses and for my criminal and violent misconduct committed in the princely city of Kitzingen I would be deserving of corporal punishment except that because of the fervent repeated intercession of my dear wedded wife and of my guarantors, named later, as well as other good friends I was set free and released from the above-mentioned jail due to the great mercy that was shown me on payment of board and whatever else I accrued there without any further punishment than that I must submit a promise not to seek vengeance along with guarantors which I have accepted most gratefully and for which I will always be grateful. Accordingly, I have first of all vowed for myself and all my heirs and beneficiaries will well-considered and free mind and spirit and in truth, good, proper, and sealed with a handshake, and have sworn an oath to God the Almighty and on Holy Scripture that I shall and will refrain from retaliating, contesting, or seeking vengeance for my above-mentioned confinement and proceedings and whatever happened to me there against my above-named gracious lords, the Margraves, their princely graces’ heirs, territories, lands, people, subjects,
and relations or those who owe allegiance or are related to their princely graces or to them, whether they be clerical or secular, noble or common, and in particular, against their princely graces’ officials, the Mayor and Council in Kitzingen, all residents, burghers, and the community itself from now and forever, nor shall I nor anyone else for my sake cause such to happen neither within nor outside the law, canonical or secular, and otherwise nothing at all whatsoever that one might conceive. Secondly, I also guarantee herewith by power of this document that for all time and nevermore shall I stand, act nor cause anything to happen against my gracious lords, named above, the Margraves, their princely graces’ heirs, lands, people, subjects, and relatives or those who owe allegiance or are related to their graces, again whether they be clerical or secular, noble or common, and particularly (as written above) against their princely graces’ officials, the Mayor and Council in Kitzingen, all residents, burghers and the community itself in the form of a complaint, but rather if, in the future, in the short or long term, I should have a case or claim against my above-mentioned gracious lords, the Margraves, their princely graces’ heirs, lands, people, subjects, and relatives or their subjects about any matters that fall outside this promise not the retaliate, I shall and will be satisfied in each case with a peaceful resolution thereof from the jurisdiction in which each one resides and force no one to be tried or accused elsewhere again in no way that one might conceive of and with that my previously mentioned gracious lords, their princely graces’ heirs, lands, people, subjects and relatives to better ensure and guarantee all of this I have therefore selected as good and equally constituted guarantors, named, as follows, Hans Leibotz, Hans Dietrich, and Hans Barn, all residents of Kaltensondheim, and with such provisions, that if it happened in the future, in the short or long term, that I were so frivolous and faithless as to disregard and fail to uphold the parts, points and articles, described above, something that should not happen, that then my guarantors, just named, as a group and individually, shall in truth and by the obligations sworn in the oath that follows be obligated, bound, and required to search for me, bring me back to the jail and public prison of my said gracious lords, the Margraves in Kitzingen, should that however not happen by the deadline of one month following my violation, on their honor, then shall they deliver themselves in my place to the jail of my gracious lords, the Margraves, in Kitzingen and not be released, [until] my above-mentioned my gracious lords, the Margraves, their graces’ heirs, lands, people, subjects and relatives, are repaid, compensated, and receive full settlement for all of the damages that accrued to their princely graces or their subjects due to my broken promise through me or through others on my account for every occurrence. Should it so happen, however, that my guarantors
likewise also break their promise and forget their sworn obligations, something that should not happen, then

their princely graces, their heirs, and whoever acts on their behalf have the absolute power, authority, and perfect right to
seize, take, and impound the persons and property of the guarantors, one and all, on that account,
for as long as their princely graces and their subjects are fully compensated for those damages they would have
suffered by me or others on my account and what one guarantor loses, shall also be taken from the second and none
of the guarantors, as a group or singly, may undertake anything to protect or shield them from any of this in any way,
privileges, benefits or anything else that one might conceive, and we the forenamed guarantors
acknowledge our service as guarantors and everything contained in this document pertaining to us, pledge, and
promise to uphold each and every point of this in true, firm, resolute, and steadfast fashion, not to oppose it in any
way, and forgo and refrain from any of our privileges, as described above, as we now vow
with a faithful handshake and also have sworn to God the Almighty a formal, personal oath, all
in good faith and with any treachery and on our honor. To authenticate all of this I, Jost Mentler,
named above, and we, the guarantors, described above have made a fervent request of the honorable Thoma Huble
and Hieronymus Kumpf from Kitzingen such that they have impressed their own seals in this document at the end
of the text, which action we, the notaries, just mentioned, confirm to have occurred in response to all your requests,
yet without harm coming to us or our heirs, given on the feast day of Matthew, apostle
and evangelist, in the year, etc. in the twenty-sixth.  

1 Nearest village w of Kitzingen, about 6 km
2 Three keys were necessary to open any city gate: The gates are “alle Nacht durch geordnete Thorsperrerr zugemacht und früh eine Stunde vor Tagesanbruch
wieder geöffnet” (Bernbeck, 5) Also at the end of Bernbeck’s entry to §181 in 1512 relates new regulations imposed by the Margrave: “daß ein jedes Tor drei
starke unterschiedliche Schlösser haben und die Schlüssel dazu der eine von des Fürsten wegen einem Vogt, der andere einem Oberbürgermeister und der
dritte zweien aus der Gemeinde behändigt werden sollen. Die Thorsperrerr sollen solche Schlüssel bei Vogt und Bürgermeister holen und alsbald wieder
überantworten.” (Bernbeck 86).
3 More than one witness to an offense gave officials little cause to doubt the guilt of the offender and allowed for more severe punishment. “Truth” that
emerged from only one witness or from questioning and arguments was less persuasive and actionable. See Michael Foucault, Discipline and Punish
4 These verbs don’t appear until l. 26.
5 Literally, “without malice.”
6 The feast of St. Matthew is celebrated on September 21, which in 1526 fell on a Friday.